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Inter-Arab Affairs

Omani Official Comments After GCC Summit

LD0506115490 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2230 GMT 4 Jun 90

[Excerpt] His Excellency the Omani state minister for foreign affairs Yusuf Bin Al-Alawi 'Abdallah today announced the end of the 35th GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] Ministerial Council session. He later held a press conference.

In reply to a question, his excellency affirmed that the Arabs hope that the United States will deal with the Palestinian cause from an humanitarian angle.

He said: We know that the United States is making efforts in order to solve the Palestinian question in a just way. However, we hope also that the United States will view the Palestinian issue from the side of the (?US) itself.

He added: Sending an international mission from the Security Council to occupied Palestine in order to investigate living conditions for the Palestinian people, in light of the Israeli occupation and of the events which took place recently, is a humanitarian request.

The Omani minister expressed the hope that future efforts of the United States would be crowned with success in working for the protection of the Palestinian people from Israeli extermination and in providing adequate measures and facilities which would enable the Palestinian people to avoid more irresponsible means of oppression.

Kuwait Delegation Leaves for GCC Meeting 3 Jun

LD0306184790 Kuwait KUNA in English 1723 GMT 3 Jun 90

[Text] Kuwait, June 3 (KUNA)—Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir left here Sunday [3 June] for al-Ta'if to take part in the GCC ministerial council meetings.

The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) ministers of foreign affairs and finance and economy are to hold a joint meeting later there tonight to discuss and adopt several economic and financial issues concerning state members, while the ministerial council meetings would start to discuss the Arab and international political situation and economic coordination among the GCC states.

The delegation accompanying Shaykh Sabah comprised director of the deputy premier and foreign minister's office Abdullah Sa'ud al-Abdul Razaq, director of the GCC affairs department Khalid al-Jarallah, and Mohammad Saleh al-Dowikh.

Shaykh Sabah was seen off at the airport by minister of state for foreign affairs Sa'ud Mohammad al-Osaimi, foreign undersecretary [word indistinct] Majid al-Shahien and other officials.

Iraqi, Mauritanian Presidents Comment on Summit

JN0206133290 Baghdad INA in English 1100 GMT 2 Jun 90

[Text] Baghdad, June 2, INA—President Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya of Mauritania today left Baghdad and was seen off at the airport by President Saddam Husayn.

Present at the airport to see off the Mauritanian president also were Mr. Taha Yasin Ramadan, first deputy premier, Mr. Taha Muhyi al-Din Ma'rouf, vice-president, members of the Revolution Command council and the ministers.

The Mauritanian president and the delegation accompanying him took part in the Baghdad Arab summit. In a statement to INA before departure, the Mauritanian president described the Baghdad summit resolutions as important and would have positive impacts in the future.

He added that the summit adopted very important resolutions on consolidating Iraq's position and boosting solidarity with Iraq, the Palestinian uprising, Jordan and Libya and other important resolutions on convening the Arab summits every year. He added that convention of the summit Baghdad during present conditions through which the Arab nation is passing was a triumph to the Arabs due to the brotherly atmosphere that characterized the summit deliberations and the wise running of the summit works by President Saddam Husayn.

On dimensions of the joint Arab action, President Saddam Husayn said that in addition to what is known in the bilateral relations among the Arabs and their three councils, the Arab Cooperation Council, the Arab Maghreb Union and the Gulf Cooperation Council, was this common ground or what is called in modern politics, the new strategy drawn up by the Arabs and that interaction of Arab leaders thoughts and opinions in Baghdad would lay down progress of the dimensions of joint Arab action.

Brotherhood, President Husayn added, was clear in Baghdad and would be effective on the level of new life of the Arabs.

On his excellency's evaluation of the Baghdad summit in the light of current Arab and international condition, President Husayn said: "My evaluation is similar to that of Arab leaders and that President Ould Taya spoke of the importance of the summit resolutions and that our pleasure is common with that of our brethren over the big results of the summit that were a source of pride of brothers and friends and a source of anger by the enemies. [sentence as received]

President Husayn said that implementation of the summit resolution would be a new and serious add [as received] to the collective Arab action for opening new hopes in the Arabs life and also to increase capability to look for whatever benefit joint Arab action.

Palestinian Affairs

PLO Denounces U.S. 'Threat' To Halt Dialogue

'Text' of Statement

JN0606212290 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1903 GMT 6 Jun 90

["Text" of statement by PLO official spokesman; read by announcer—date not given]

[Text] Some news media have been spreading information about a call by certain elements in the U.S. Administration and Congress to halt the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue, which has been frozen in a state of suspended animation for 20 months. These elements used as a pretext the operation that occurred off the shores of Tel Aviv. The PLO would like to say that although it has stated through its chief that neither the PLO nor any of its apparatuses or forces are responsible for this operation, those quarters insist on their call to halt the dialogue. They thus reveal their premeditated intention to use the operation as a pretext to sever the dialogue and shirk the international responsibility of the United States toward a political settlement and to cover up the Israeli Government's crimes, its role in stalling all political efforts, and its rejection of all peaceful proposals and initiatives. This is taking place at a time when the PLO, stemming from the Palestinian peace initiative, and in abidance by international legitimacy, continues to respond to all these international efforts and initiatives to make available all opportunities conducive to the advancement of the peace process.

This U.S. call for severing the dialogue was preceded by the U.S. veto in the UN Security Council, which is a form of connivance to protect Israel and its crimes and massacres from international condemnation, to encourage it to commit more crimes, and to prevent the UN Security Council from adopting resolutions or measures to halt these crimes and massacres against our people.

The threat to halt the dialogue is a flagrant challenge to the Arab summit resolutions and to the vote of all UN Security Council member states—except for the United States—in favor of the draft resolution proposed to the Council concerning the investigation of Israel's crimes. The PLO approved that draft resolution with a British amendment. That U.S. move gives Israel new opportunities to commit crimes and massacres against our Palestinian people and to continue its expansionist and aggressive schemes.

The PLO has proved that it has remained faithful to all its pledges and commitments and encouraged every serious opportunity to achieve a true beginning of the peace process and to advance toward the convocation of an international conference.

The PLO calls on all countries and forces eager to contain the prospect of a serious deterioration and escalation of violence in the region to put an end to the massacres and tragedies experienced by our people and to take a firm stand on the plots being hatched to trigger a new explosion that will threaten international peace and security.

Proceeding from the Baghdad summit resolutions, the PLO calls on fraternal Arab states to shoulder their responsibilities toward this dangerous, premeditated scheme, which gives the rulers of Israel a free hand to continue their crimes and massacres against our people, holy places, and land.

Senior PLO Official Interviewed

LD0706083990 Kuwait KUNA in English 0712 GMT 7 Jun 90

[Text] Kuwait, June 7 (KUNA)—A senior Palestinian official was quoted as saying Thursday [7 June] that the United States has decided to stop its dialogue with the PLO.

In an interview with Kuwaiti daily 'AL-QABAS', member of Fatah Central Committee Khalid al-Hassan said the PLO has received information about the U.S. decision to halt the dialogue and the U.S. Administration is drafting the resolution before officially announcing it.

Al-Hassan, who is also chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee at the Palestine National Council (parliament-in-exile) said this decision by Washington would be a blow to the peace process and a preparation for exploding the situation in the region.

He said however, that "it is better for us to stop the dialogue which began December 1988 because it was not a real dialogue and we believe that the real dialogue between the United States and the PLO has not begun yet."

He explained saying that the real dialogue is not meetings between two ambassadors and exchange of letters as the present case is, but it should be at all levels and in all capitals and not only in Tunis.

He added that "it is better not to continue with this dialogue and to resume it, one day, on new and solid basis."

He stressed that the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue could not be stopped for ever because the U.S. crisis is a moving process. He added "I do not know what the plans of the U.S. official are, but may be they do not move or do not want to move (?seriously) unless a war or a military confrontation in the region took place."

Answering a question on the opinion of the Palestinian leadership about the U.S. demand to expel member of the PLO Executive Committee Muhammad 'Abbas (Abu al-'Abbas) from the committee because of the commando operation his front has carried out last week, Al-Hassan said "we do not expel anyone in order to

appease the United States", adding that this demand "reflects clearly the American arrogance of force."

Official Criticizes U.S. 'Challenge'

LD0706093590 Kuwait KUNA in English 0807 GMT 7 Jun 90

[Text] Kuwait, June 7 (KUNA)—A PLO Executive Committee member Thursday [7 June] said that the message sent recently to Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat by the U.S. Administration stressed that convening an emergency international peace summit would not provide results and would only demolish peace progress acheived till now.

Sulayman al-Najjab told daily AL-ANBA' published here today that all U.S. messages whether direct or indirect hold the same contents and are always against the Arabs and the Palestinian people, in particular. The U.S. veto concerning sending United Nations Security Council fact-finding mission to the occupied lands to investigate the Israeli aggressive practices is considered a clear message of defiance to the recent decisions adopted by the Arab summit in Baghdad, the Palestinian official said.

Al-Najjab called on the Arabs to take a unified stance against "this challenge." He added that the PLO would issue a statement stressing Washington's responsibility for peace in the Middle East. He said the U.S. was "the only country that isolated itself from the international unanimity that denounced Israel which had refused all concerned efforts to convene an international peace conference."

U.S. Statements Assailed

JN0706095890 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1847 GMT 6 Jun 90

[Station commentary]

[Text] Brothers: The U.S. arrogance has gone beyond all bounds. It has even exceeded the Jewish, Toratic Israeli arrogance. The civilized Americans have excelled [words indistinct] the settlers who threaten with transfer and the occupation of the Palestinian land.

President Bush's national security adviser did not hesitate in, or have any reservations about, declaring his unlimited arrogance. He, at times, threatens to severe the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue. At other times, he says that the only objective of the dialogue is to make sure the PLO fulfills its commitments, and to make sure Yasir 'Arafat fulfills commitments [passage indistinct].

If things continue the way they are, we may reach the day when U.S. arrogance will not hesitate to demand the expulsion of every faction and even every Palestinian (?from the PLO). But, when an Israeli soldier committed a massacre against Palestinian workers in Tel Aviv and killed and wounded a number of them in cold blood, and when, only one day after the first massacre, the army of the state of settlement committed a similar massacre against our people everywhere in our land, Washington said nothing and was content with calling for restraint. Washington did not ask the government of the Jews to expel the defense minister or the chief of staff. It did not like to impose any sanctions against this occupying country or against the army of the state of settlement.

What U.S. arrogance! What arrogance! And then the Americans want us to maintain the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue at any cost as if this dialogue, in itself, will be the savior from darkness, as if it is the way to heaven.

We say: We have not been fighting and offering sacrifices, and our young men and women, children, men, and women have not been falling martyr, for more than a quarter of a century—even for more than half a century—to receive the U.S. approval or to make Washington be kind enough to offer us the dead dialogue, which Washington is only using to make sure that the PLO fulfills its commitments.

What arrogance! What contempt for people's minds!

We say, loudly: We accept no extortion. We do not fight in order to implement the U.S. conditions. We are freedom fighters and our people fight to regain their homeland and build their independent state. Cursed be the lowly.

PNC on U.S. Veto, Right to Armed Struggle

JN0506203090 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 4 Jun 90 pp 1, 22

[By Fatimah Mansur]

[Text] Palestine National Council [PNC] Speaker Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Sa'ih has stated that the PNC, or any other official Palestinian institution never promised the United States not to pursue armed struggle to attain the Palestinian people's rights and establish their independent state.

He said that the PNC and all other Palestinian institutions decided to pursue the political path while maintaining the option of armed struggle, particularly because Israel and its ally the United States had not accepted peace, had not recognized the PLO as the Palestinian people's sole and legitimate representative, and had not accepted the establishment of an independent Palestinian state on the soil of Palestine.

In a statement to AL-ANBA', the PNC speaker warned the international community of the possibility that the Palestinians and all their official institutions would decide to opt for the military course alone if Israel does not accept peace and if the United States continues to be completely biased to Israel at the expense of the Palestinian people's rights.

Al-Sa'ih said that the political course adopted by Palestinian institutions has not, as yet, led to restoring the Palestinian people's legitimate rights.

Al-Sa'ih noted that the UN charter justifies the Palestinians' recourse to the military option if all peace efforts to establish a Palestinian state fail, and if there are no international forces to protect the Palestinians in the occupied territories.

Shaykh al-Sa'ih called on the Arabs to make intensive international efforts to stop Israel's persecution of the Palestinian people. He added that Israeli intransigence toward Palestinian rights and its threats to Arab countries have not only exacerbated tension in the region but have brought the region to the brink of a destructive war as well.

Al-Sa'ih also called on the Arabs to make every effort and use all their influence to prevent the United States from resorting to the veto every time against the Palestinian people and the Arab people while it provides Israel with all the funds and the weapons it needs.

The PNC speaker said that if the United States maintains its policies hostile to the PLO and the Palestinian people, and if the international community maintains its passive attitude toward the United States, the PNC will be convened to make the decisions that will serve the Palestinian people's interests.

PLO Officials Comment on U.S. Talks, Veto

JN0506110690 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 5 Jun 90 p 1

[By Lamis K. Andoni, JORDAN TIMES staff reporter]

[Text] Amman—The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Executive Committee is expected to hold an urgent meeting in Baghdad in the next 24 hours and call for firm Arab political and economic measures to counter what Palestinian officials described as an American campaign to bloc efforts to provide international protection for the Palestinians living in the Israeli-occupied territories.

According to Palestinian officials, the PLO will demand that Arab governments adhere to commitments pledged at the extra-ordinary Arab summit held in Baghdad last week and assess Arab relations with foreign countries in light of their attitude towards the Palestinian people's national rights.

They said Palestinian officials said the PLO expected the Arab governments to respond to the American veto which killed a resolution calling for the dispatch of a three-member team to the occupied territories to investigate Israeli treatment of the Palestinian people. Senior PLO officials described the veto as "a hostile act" which warranted firm measures against the U.S. by the Arab governments.

They did not exclude economic sanctions against the U.S. to counter what they described as a "total and consistent American bias."

"The Arabs should adopt immediate effective action," PLO Executive Committee member Muhammad Milhim told the Jordan Times, prior to his departure to Baghdad, Monday. "This should include firm political and economic measures in accordance with the Baghdad summit resolutions."

Asked if the PLO was demanding economic sanctions against the U.S., he said: "The Baghdad summit resolutions are very clear and no country is an exception."

Another PLO Executive Committee member Sulayman al-Najjab, said that the organisation would vehemently push for collective Arab action. "The American veto is the first real and practical test to the Baghdad summit," al-Najjab told the Jordan Times before leaving Amman for Baghdad.

American officials have linked the veto to an aborted guerrilla operation carried out by the tiny Palestinian Liberation front (PLF) last week.

But Palestinian officials rejected this link as "an unacceptable pretext."

"The main flaw in the American position has all along been its refusal to recognise the Palestinian people's right to self- determination," argued al-Najjab. "We are convinced that this American position is the main reason behind the American veto."

In Milhim's view American opposition to United Nations resolutions pertaining to the Palestinian question and, or reluctance to effectively back them have practically rendered all of the resolutions practically absolete.

"For me, there is practically no difference between American endorsing United Nations resolutions or vetoeing them," Milhim said. "In the final result none are implemented."

Milhim, who usually voices very moderate views, argued that the only hope he sees in making Israel respond positively to peace efforts is through establishing "a balance of terror in the region." "Therefore the Arab governments should immediately start on enhancing their capabilities on all levels and in all fields," he said.

The Baghdad summit resolutions stressed the Arab countries' right to acquire advanced technology to develop their abilities in all fields, including armaments, as long as there is no complete elimination of all form of mass destruction weapons.

"It is either that we eliminate all forms of weapons and make this area a free zone from mass destruction weapons or we develop our abilities in all levels," Milhim said.

PLO officials here and in Baghdad have expressed almost complete disregard to American threats to cut off the 17-month old U.S.-PLO dialogue. Last week Fatah

leader Salah Khalaf said the PLO "will shed no tears" if the U.S. implemented it's threats.

Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, who heads the PLO side to the dialogue, told the Jordan Times last week that the dialogue had achieved nothing substantial.

"We are even convinced that even if the dialogue continued for one more year—in the same way it was proceeding until now—it will achieve nothing," said Milhim.

Al-Najjab repeated Palestinian accusations that the U.S. aimed at "convincing the PLO to exclude itself from the political equation."

"The U.S. was trying to make us accept, through the dialogue, an alternative Palestinian leadership," he said in a cynical tone, "throughout history many colonialist powers were able to create alternative leaderships—albeit temporarily—for national liberation movements but Israel had failed, and the U.S. is still trying," he said.

Other PLO officials ruled out any possibility that the PLO will comply to recent American demands to publicly condemn the PLO operation and to expel it's leader Muhammad 'Abbas, from the PLO.

"This is simply out of question, it is just not on our agenda," said a senior PLO official in Baghdad who asked not to be named. Agencies add: Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev said in the Washington talks that Moscow might stem Jewish emigration if migrants settled in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"Gorbachev's statement shows Moscow has begun to be aware of the negative impacts of Soviet Jewish immigration and U.S.-Israel attempts to undermine Soviet-Arab relations," PLO Ambassador to Baghdad 'Azzam al-Ahmad said.

Israel says 250,000 Soviet Jews might immigrate in 1990. About 38,000 have already arrived.

The PLO leaders would also discuss a U.S. veto of a U.N. Security Council resolution Thursday to send observers to the occupied territories.

A senior Israeli official said Israel believes the United States will maintain its dialogue with the PLO despite a foiled sea raid by Palestinian commandos on Israel last week.

"The U.S. won't cut the dialogue," the official told Reuters. "The Americans don't break plates until they've bought new ones."

Israel has publicly urged Washington to end contacts with the PLO.

But the official said the dialogue was too important a part of U.S. Middle East policy to be abandoned.

PLO Says U.S. Reneged on UN Resolution Deal

JN0506114590 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 5 Jun 90 p 1

[Text] Amman—Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) officials have accused the U.S. of reneging on an agreement not to veto a United Nations Security Council resolution to send an investigation mission to the occupied territories. They also said that European, particularly French, efforts were underway to find an alternative formula.

According to Palestinian sources, the British delegate to the U.N. negotiated a deal whereby the PLO had accepted to modify the resolution; instead of calling for sending United Nations troops to [as published] the modified resolution called for the despatch of a three-member investigation committee.

The sources said that the PLO had strongly protested against the U.S. veto to the American ambassador in Tunis, Robert Pelletreau, and a number of the British ambassadors in the region.

The sources said, however, that the PLO was actively seeking an alternative mechanism to provide protection for the Palestinian people. "We have the support of several European countries and we shall not abandon our goal," a PLO official said. (LA) [Lamis Andoni]

PLO Executive Committee Holds Baghdad Session

Commences Meetings 5 June

JN0506143690 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1335 GMT 5 Jun 90

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 5 Jun (INA)—The PLO Executive Committee meetings under Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and president of the state of Palestine, started in Baghdad today. [passage omitted]

The PLO Executive Committee will continue its meetings this evening to finalize the discussion of topics presented to it.

Discusses Summit, U.S. Veto

JN0606121090 Baghdad INA in English 1143 GMT 6 Jun 90

[Text] Baghdad, June 6, INA—Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) Executive Committee today resumed its meetings in Baghdad under the chairmanship of Mr. Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the Executive Committee of the organization and president of the state of Palestine.

During its meetings which began yesterday, the Executive Committee discusses the positive results attained at the Arab extraordinary summit which lately concluded its proceedings in Baghdad, in addition to assessment of the situation and developments on both Arab and international arenas.

The PLO's Executive Committee also discusses the impacts entailed by the United States use of its veto in the U.N. Security Council to foil a draft resolution providing for dispatching a U.N. commission for fact-finding with regard to deteriorated conditions which the sons of the Palestinian people are leading inside the occupied Arab territories and the Zionist occupation authorities oppressive and despotic practices.

Iraqi News Agency has learnt that the PLO's Executive Committee will issue a statement at the conclusion of its meetings to deal with results it has reached regarding its agenda.

Qaddumi Arrives for Meetings

JN0506144290 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1340 GMT 5 Jun 90

[Text] Baghdad, 5 Jun (INA)—Faruq Qaddumi, foreign minister of the State of Palestine, arrived in Baghdad this afternoon to attend the Palestinian leadership's meetings which began in Baghdad earlier today.

Mr. Qaddumi told INA that the objective of the Palestinian leadership's meetings is to decide a short-term policy based on the resolutions of the extraordinary Arab summit held in Baghdad recently, and to evaluate recent developments and events in the occupied Arab territories as well as evaluate the U.S. veto against the UN Security Council draft resolution to dispatch an international fact-finding mission to the occupied Arab territories.

Press Statement Issued

JN0606152290 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 6 Jun 90

[Text] The PLO Executive Committee concluded its meetings in Baghdad today under the chairmanship of Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and president of the state of Palestine.

During its two-day conference the PLO Executive Committee discussed the outcome of the extraordinary Arab summit recently concluded in Baghdad and assessed the situation and recent developments on the Arab and international scenes. The Executive Committee also discussed the effect of the U.S. veto at the UN Security Council to obstruct a draft resolution to send a UN fact-finding mission to the occupied Arab territories to investigate the deteriorating situation experienced by the Palestinian Arab people, as well as the repressive and arbitrary practices of the Zionist occupation authorities.

In a press statement read at the conclusion of the Executive Committee meetings, an official PLO spokesman said the United States bears international responsibility for smothering efforts to settle the Palestine question and for covering up the crimes committed by the Zionist entity.

The spokesman added: The threat being brandished by the United States to halt the dialogue with the PLO is a flagrant challenge to the Arab summit resolutions and also to the UN Security Council.

The spokesman urged all states and forces eager to put an end to the massacres and tragedies befalling the Palestinian people to take a decisive stand on the plots to ignite a new explosion that would threaten world peace and security.

Concluding his statement, the PLO spokesman called upon all Arab states to bear their responsibilities to honor their commitment to the Baghdad summit resolutions, and also to confront the dangerous and premeditated scheme which is unleashing the Zionist entity so that it can persist in its perpetration of massacres against the Palestinian Arab people.

Peace Mission

PM0606111390 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 4 Jun 90 p1

[Unattributed report: "'Arafat To Visit Jordan End Of Current Week"]

[Text] Cairo, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Informed Palestinian sources have stated that Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat will visit Jordan at the end of this current week for talks with King Husayn on the latest developments related to the occupied territory and the Palestinian question.

The sources added that during the visit 'Arafat will meet with the U.S. mission for peace in the Middle East which consists of 46 [number as received] U.S. public figures headed by former Senator Charles Percy.

The mission has now visited Israel, Egypt, and Jordan, and it intends to stage a peaceful march across the King Husayn bridge to the occupied territory.

Editorial Denounces U.S. Security Council Veto

PM0606110490 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 3 Jun 90 p17

[Editorial: "The Answer Is In Correcting The Imbalance And Not Giving In to Despair"]

[Excerpts] The United States has once again used its veto to block a Security Council resolution which would ultimately have been nothing more than a natural attempt by the council to defend the principles of international legitimacy in the violation of which Israel has set a record. In so doing, Washington aborted a draft resolution calling for the dispatch of a Security Council factfinding mission to the occupied territory. It was the only state to oppose the draft resolution. The other 14 council members supported it.

Regardless of the explanations that the United States has given and the justification that it has been trying to sell, the U.S. position remains strange and astonishing. For two decades the United States refused to hold any

dialogue with the PLO—the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative—on the pretext that the PLO did not recognize UN resolutions. It seemed to optimists at the time that all the United States wanted from the PLO was for it to use the language of international legitimacy. [passage omitted]

It is difficult to believe that the position taken by Washington in the Security Council was of a kind to encourage Israel to abandon its intransigence. It could in fact be said that the position taken by Washington in the Security Council is part of a chain of events which are nearly driving the Palestinian people to despair. The first such event was Israel's veto against the Baker proposals, the second was the increasing rate of immigration of Soviet Jews to Israel and the attempts to settle them in the occupied territory in violation of international conventions and charters, and the third was the Israeli move to commit huge massacres with the aim of evicting the owners of the land to make room for the incoming immigrants. [passage omitted]

It is difficult to find anything convincing in what Thomas Pickering, U.S. representative to the Security Council, said in his attempt to justify the use of the U.S. right of veto.

He said that the draft resolution "does not concentrate on the real need to boost the peace process and could become an instrument used to create confusion and trouble in the region." He saw the Palestinian sea attack on a Tel Aviv beach as an "abortive terrorist" operation. The question is simply this: Can such operations be ruled out after what the Israeli occupation did in Rishon Leziyyon? Wasn't the massacre of Palestinian workers the peak of terrorism and the highest call for despair?

It was quite natural for Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat to describe the veto as "a U.S. Administration blow to peace," and "a serious escalation that will fuel the Israeli fire." [passage omitted]

Amid these developments, the difficult question arises of how the Arabs and Palestinians should respond, on the one hand to Israel's intransigence, and on the other to the U.S. refusal to take any effective steps to put into practice the U.S. declared wish to enhance the peace process.

The answer seems clearer than ever before. A settlement, any settlement, would reflect the balance of power. The Baghdad summit has outlined the way to correct the imbalance. The more the Arabs succeed in crystallizing a solid cohesive stand based on a unified concept and on mobilization of Arab resources, the closer the proposed peace would get to the fulfillment of the requirements of a just and comprehensive peace. A correction of the imbalance can be achieved not through summit conferences and resolutions but through a new rebuilding process—a rebuilding of the Arab position and Arab capabilities, which is what the Baghdad summit emphasized. The corrective process would foil all the repeated calls for despair. Despair could lead to catastrophic results, as would indulgence in excessive hopes that have no justification in reality.

Commentary Attacks U.S. Bias Toward Israel

JN0406220490 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 4 Jun 90

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] What makes the U.S. Administration risk its reputation and credibility by taking the side of Zionist terrorism and turning a deaf ear to the voice of the Palestinian blood that rises above any other voice? Why does this adventurous administration reject any call for protecting the Palestinian people from bullets, gas, destruction, starvation, exile, deportation, and imprisonment? Why does it threaten us every day with halting what it calls its dialogue with us, as if this dialogue were a gift or a magic wand to open the homeland's door for us and as if we were panting after that dialogue, which does not recognize the Palestinian individual and his right to an entity and a state on the soil of his usurped homeland? Is it interests? Is it the Zionist lobby? Is it Zionist hatred? Is it belief that we deserve nothing? Or is it all these together supported by narrow-mindedness, short-sightedness, and inability to understand?

These questions and scores of others should be the subject of a public dialogue, and this dialogue should not remain secret, weak, behind the scenes, and remote from essential topics, no matter how thorny or sensitive. It seems that we have to proceed from a well known fact, which does not need much intelligence to be understood, that today's world is no longer a world of capitulation to the domination of force or threat of force. On the contrary, it is a world that is seeking accord and understanding, which alone can save it and put it on the road to world peace. The age of military colonialism has gone forever, and military bases no longer secure the vital or nonvital interests of any party, no matter how strong and capable. Nor are weapons any longer the secret of secrets in this age of technological progress, which gives the opportunity to possess weapons that are sufficient for defense or even effective and destructive offensively. We do not imagine that the use of nuclear weapons in deciding regional or international conflicts can benefit any party, no matter how much it controls the secrets of that weapon. Israel is still governed by the logic of force.

This is not Israel's responsibility alone. It is mainly the responsibility of the United States and the West, which established Israel as a military strike force. Let them admit this and let them admit that gone is the time in which Israel served them and secured their interests. In view of this, we draw attention to the fact that most Arab countries possess weapons capable of retaliating for destruction and that Iraq is capable of dealing a fatal blow to the killers. But this alone is not enough. The United States should clearly understand that the daily killing and slaying will neither give the chance nor the time to freeze the ever-changing balance of power. What

is happening in the occupied territories is a war against the Palestinian people. Needless to say, war leads to war.

Is it the Zionist lobby? Has the United States become dominated by that lobby to this serious point, which threatens U.S. strategic interests, confuses and weakens U.S. policies, and forces the United States to support injustice and openly defy international consensus? We do not believe we should proceed with this assumption. Otherwise, the United States will face disaster because this, if true, means that it is Israel that leads the U.S. Administration and not the opposite. Is it racial hatred? Is it discrimination? We fear that we might go too far and assume this is the case, because there is much evidence. Why is the U.S. Administration angered over the unshed blood of a Jew, while it ignores our blood, which is being shed every day. Moreover, it uses the veto at the Security Council, which has not yet taken any step to separate the knife of the Jewish terrorist from the Palestinian blood.

We prefer to say there are some people in the U.S. Administration who do discriminate between one blood and another blood and that these people influence decisions. There are many other questions. We will discuss them on other occasions to voice our impressions about the deep-rooted U.S. hostility to the Palestinians and the Arabs. Regarding the scandalous U.S. position at the Security Council, we can say it conflicts with Baker's announcement that the U.S. Administration had no objection to international supervision of what is taking place in occupied Palestine. But Baker retreated only a few hours after he made his announcement.

New PLO Representative Meets Canadian Official

LD0506090890 Kuwait KUNA in English 0717 GMT 5 Jun 90

[Text] Ottawa, June 5 (KUNA)—Palestine Liberation Organization's new representative here Hassan 'Abd al-Rahman said last night that Canadian officials informed him that Canada still maintains its stance toward the PLO and is studying the issue of elevating the PLO's representation in Canada.

Speaking to KUNA 'Abd al-Rahman said after his first visit to the Canadian Foreign Ministry that he informed director of the Middle East Department at the Foreign Ministry Percy Sherwood that Ottawa has to elevate the standard of representation in Canada as is the case in Europe.

He said that Sherwood renewed his country's stance from the Palestinian question saying that Canada supports the PLO which has a significant role in the Middle East peace process and that Canada will continue its contacts with the PLO "without restrictions."

On March of last year Canada had announced that it would lift all restrictions on holding contacts with the PLO, and said that the PLO has to participate in any negotiations to resolve the palestinian Question.

However, this Canadian announcement has not been translated to practical steps and no high level meetings were held between Ottawa and the PLO.

'Abd al-Rahman said that he discussed with Sherwood the Soviet Jewish exodus to the occupied lands.

[Words indistinct] permanent camps in Vienna, Rome, Bucharest and [word indistinct] are asking to be allowed to immigrate to the US but are forced to leave for Israel which is a violation of human rights, the PLO official affirmed.

'Abd al-Rahman arrived here Friday [1 June] and last night left for Washington. He is expected to return to Ottawa at the end of this month.

Algeria

Soviet Finance Minister Holds Cooperation Talks

LD0506121390 Algiers APS in English 1007 GMT 5 Jun 90

[Text] Algiers, 5/6/90 (APS)—Minister of equipment conferred yesterday with the Soviet minister of finance, who is on a visit to Algeria in the frame of the works of the 13th session of the Algero-Soviet Intergovernmental Permanent Commission.

Talks dealt with the cooperation between the two countries in the field of equipment and notably the realization of hydraulic works.

V.S. Pavlov had talks also with the minister of mines, Sadek Boussena on cooperation in the fields of electricity, hydrocarbons and mines and ways of promoting it according to economic reforms in both countries. This meeting was also an occasion to exchange views on the situation prevailing on the international petroleum market.

Received by Bendjedid

LD0506215590 Algiers Television Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 5 Jun 90

[Excerpts] Today, Head of the State Chadli Bendjedid received Mr. Pavlov, the Soviet finance minister, who is currently in Algeria within the context of the meeting of the Algerian-Soviet joint governmental committee. [passage omitted]

Here is the statement by the Soviet minister after his meeting with the president. [video shows Soviet minister talking to the television correspondent]

The Soviet finance minister said that the current reforms in each Algeria and the USSR have the same aim in spite of the fact that they stem from the particular characters of each country.

My talks with the president included the necessary means for implementing these reforms which will make it possible to achieve prosperity for the two peoples.

In spite of the current economic and political problems in both our countries, today we are thinking of finding the common ground which will allow us to build the continuous economic development and which will put an end to the current problems.

We are convinced that we are following the right path. We have a joint conviction, which is giving the necessary support to the current reforms in our countries.

Cooperation Agreement Signed With Iran

LD0506211190 Tehran IRNA in English 1423 GMT 5 Jun 90

[Text] Tehran, June 5, IRNA—A note of understanding on industrial-trade cooperation between Iran and Algeria was signed in Algiers, it was reported here Tuesday [5 June]. The document was inked at the end of a week-long negotiations of an Iranian delegation headed by deputy minister of heavy industries Hasan Ramezanyan-Pur with the Algerian ministers of transportation, commerce and industry. Talks centered on cooperation in production of passenger coaches, sea transportation, transfer of technology and exchange of industrial products and spare parts.

Ramezanyan-Pur invited the Algerian minister of commerce to visit Iran and inspect the country's industry.

Furthermore, it was agreed that the second Irano-Algerian joint economic commission be held in Tehran in September.

The Iranian delegation left Tehran for Algiers last Tuesday [29 May] to follow up articles of the protocol signed between the two countries last year.

Egypt

Reportage on Lebanese President Al-Hirawi's Visit

Arrives With Delegation

NC0506162390 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1600 GMT 5 Jun 90

[Excerpts] Cairo, 5 Jun (MENA)—Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi and his wife arrived in Cairo this afternoon for an official three-day visit. They were received at Cairo Airport by President Husni Mubarak and his wife. President Mubarak accompanied President al-Hirawi to the presidential palace in al-Qubbah, where the Lebanese president was accorded an official welcome. A military band played the Egyptian and Lebanese national anthems, after which Presidents Mubarak and al-Hirawi reviewed the honor guard. [passage omitted]

Accompanying the Lebanese president on his visit to Egypt are Dr. Salim al-Huss, Lebanese prime minister and foreign minister; Suhayl Shammas, Foreign Ministry secretary general; Hisham Sha'ar, Prime Ministry secretary general; and Dr. Faris (Yuwel), political adviser to the Lebanese president. [passage omitted]

Comments on Goals of Visit

NC0506173490 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1635 GMT 5 Jun 90

[Text] Cairo, 5 Jun (MENA)—Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi has said that he attaches great importance to his visit to Cairo. He pointed out that he will ask Egypt to help Lebanon achieve peace and to exert intensive efforts to enable Lebanon regain control over southern Lebanon and bring about an Israeli withdrawal.

Speaking to journalists who accompanied him aboard his aircraft during the flight to Cairo, al-Hirawi said: Furthermore, we will ask Egypt, a country that has begun to manufacture military equipment and has a great

military arsenal, to help Lebanon revive the Lebanese Army on all levels, so that the legitimate Lebanese Government will be able to extend its authority throughout Lebanese territory.

He added: I do not mean by this that we intend to declare war against others. We have had enough wars in Lebanon. We want peace in all Lebanese territory, so that the legitimate authorities will be able to implement their resolutions, be they concerned with security, administration, or other matters. He noted the need for the legitimate government to rely on its own power rather than on a borrowed force.

Commenting on the implementation of Resolution 425 which calls for Israel's withdrawal from southern Lebanon, al-Hirawi pointed out that he will seek political action from Egypt and said: However, the implementation of the resolution lies with us as the Lebanese Government. He added: Once we are able to equip our army, no one will have any excuses. When a fully equipped Lebanese Army reaches the south, we can resort to the UN Security Council and demand the implementation of Resolution 425 with the help of the UN interim forces in the south.

Asserting that no resistance or militia should remain in southern Lebanon, he said: I fully appreciate what the Lebanese have done in southern Lebanon to liberate the region from Israeli occupation.

Al-Hirawi noted that Egypt has a certain position, whether in the Arab world or among friendly states. He said Egypt's position qualifies it to exert efforts to put an end to what is happening on Lebanese soil.

He urged the Lebanese people to return to their renowned nobility in order to restore normalcy with alertness and conscience.

He pointed out that it had been said in the Arab world that Lebanon is witnessing sectarian wars on its soil, but recent events have proved that the ongoing wars in Lebanon are the wars of others. Evidence of this, he said, is the welcome and attention those who left East Beirut received from their kinfolk in other parts of Lebanon.

As for Jewish immigration to the occupied Arab territories, the Lebanese president said President Husni Mubarak's and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad's visits to Moscow together with the messages sent in this connection have yielded good results.

Lebanese Official Comments

NC0606114090 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0950 GMT 6 Jun 90

[Excerpt] Cairo, 6 Jun (MENA)—[passage omitted] A Lebanese political official said today that Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi met last night with Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs. He added that their talks focused on one principal issue, namely, implementation of the al-Ta'if accord and the means of finding ways to initiate implementation.

The Lebanese source said that implementation alone requires an Arab stand on this issue, adding that what is needed is political unity for implementing the accord. Political backing and material support for the legitimate state are also required in addition to the implementation of the Baghdad summit resolution on the monetary fund.

The Lebanese source said that the Lebanese president's talks with Dr. al-Baz dealt primarily with political issues and the prevailing situation in Lebanon, particularly in the eastern area, which is impeding the legitimate authority's work. They also discussed the problems facing the national reconciliation process, the PLO's role in the process, and the scant attention given by a number of Arab countries on this particular issue.

Replying to a question on whether the Egyptians promised to act with the PLO or other parties, the Lebanese source said: "Certainly," adding that Egypt pledged to help the Lebanese state tackle its problems at the Arab, Palestinian, and European levels. The source stressed that the Egyptians are convinced that the al-Ta'if document on reconciliation is the only available plan and those opposed to it have failed to present an alternative.

Replying to another question on whether the al-Ta'if accord can encompass the rebels, the source said: When the rebels support the al-Ta'if accord and become convinced of the need to rally around the legitimacy, then they will not be rebels anymore. He stressed that the Lebanese state does not want to reopen the files of the past but is working to lay down specific bases for a plan centered on the al-Ta'if accord and calling on all parties to rally around it. He added: Whoever rejects this must do so in a democratic way.

Al-Baz Comments

NC0606152390 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1203 GMT 6 Jun 90

[Text] Cairo, 6 Jun (MENA)—Dr. Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the president's office for political affairs, has said that Egypt is greatly concerned about the settlement of the Lebanese problem and ending the tragic situation in Lebanon.

He said President Mubarak and the Egyptian people and the Lebanese people share an eagerness to emerge form this crisis. He pointed out that President Husni Mubarak had discussed this matter with a number of world leaders.

Al-Baz made a statement following a two-hour session of talks today between Presidents Mubarak and al-Hirawi, which Dr. Salim al-Huss, Lebanese prime minister and foreign minister, joined while in progress.

Al-Baz said Egypt is greatly interested in President al-Hirawi's visit and noted: We hope that any coordination and understanding between Egypt and Lebanon at this stage will contribute to a solution to the Lebanese crisis.

He pointed out that Egypt could play a role in Lebanon, based on the firm historical relationship between the two countries, as well as on the general acceptance of the Egyptian role in Lebanon, a point from which this role may proceed. He asserted that Egypt can employ its Arab and international standing in the service of the Lebanese cause.

He emphasized that Egypt supports the legitimacy in Lebanon and its unity. He said that all current attempts to break away from the legitimate authorities should not overwhelm the Lebanese people's patriotism and awareness.

He pointed out that the key point in supporting the Lebanese legitimacy and consolidating the state's authority is to press ahead with implementing al-Ta'if accord.

Asked if Egypt will provide military assistance to the Lebanese Army, he said: We support the consolidation of legitimacy in Lebanon; however, the question of militrary assistance or any other particular matters will be decided by the two presidents.

Al-Baz was asked about the possibility of Egypt benefiting from its ties with the United States and Israel in forcing Israel to withdraw from Southern Lebanon in implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 425. He said regrettably there is no Arab or non-Arab country able to force Israel to follow a certain path.

He pointed out that Egypt will spare no effort in its moves in this respect, especially with the United States, which bears a great responsibility for what is happening in the region, particularly in Lebanon. He added: We are working with the U.S. Administration. In our contacts with the Israeli officials we seek the full implementation of this resolution.

Asked for his view of a possible solution to the Lebanese crisis to terminate the existing rebellion in East Beirut, he said: We leave the detailed concept of how to emerge from the Lebanese crisis to the Lebanese. It is not right for us to indulge in matters that are the core of Lebanese internal action. We accept what is accepted by the Lebanese people, represented by the constitutional legitimacy.

He urged all Lebanese factions to unify their ranks because the issue in question affects the existence of the people and the state, noting that enough destruction, subversion, ravaging, and suffering has spread to all parts of Lebanon.

He said: We realize the current hard and tragic living conditions in East Beirut and we do not accept continuation of this suffering at all. He noted that, within the context of consolidating the legitimacy and reaching a Lebanese reconciliation, that might not be unanimous but adequately strong, it is necessary to move in the direction of implementing the al-Ta'if accord.

He asserted that, despite the importance of UN resolutions, no one can decide matters in Lebanon except the Lebanese factions and main parties, through cooperation and accord.

Asked about President al-Hirawi's request for Egypt's armament of the Lebanese Army, al-Baz said the question is not one of armament. It is a matter of concept and movement on various levels, which the Egyptian and Lebanese presidents as well as Lebanese Prime Minister Dr. Salim al-Huss had discussed. He asserted that the Lebanese side will be pleased about the outcome of the ongoing talks.

Al-Hirawi Holds News Conference

NC0606200590 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1900 GMT 6 Jun 90

[Text] Cairo, 6 Jun (MENA)—Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi emphasized that Lebanon will soon see the results of his positive and good talks with President Muhammad Husni Mubarak.

Al-Hirawi said that President Mubarak has asked his aides to follow up the efforts exerted on the regional and international levels to solve the Lebanese crisis.

The Lebanese president stressed that President Husni Mubarak's position and influence enable him to act toward solving all issues connected with the Lebanese crisis.

President al-Hirawi pointed out that the purpose of his visit to Egypt is to thank Egypt for its efforts on behalf of Lebanon.

President al-Hirawi said this in a news conference at al-Qubbah palace this evening, where he had been staying. Dr. Mahmud al-Baltaji, head of the Public Information Authority; Hasan Shash, the ambassador of Egypt to Lebanon; 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Sulh, the ambassador of Lebanon in Cairo; and Miss Mi Kahhalah, President al-Hirawi's press adviser, attended the conference.

The Lebanese president praised President Mubarak's deep understanding of the Lebanese issue and its internal, external, regional, and international causes. He also lauded the identity of views on ways of saving Lebanon and restoring accord and peace to it and on all joint issues and topics which were discussed.

Al-Hirawi said: Egypt's permanent support for Lebanon in its ordeal stems from its firm stands in supporting the Arab issues, its conviction of the importance of Lebanon's role in the Arab family and world society, and its

faith that the restoration of health to Lebanon would enable it to carry out its natural and effective role among its Arab brothers.

The Lebanese president stressed that the Lebanese legitimacy is mobilizing all of its available resources to impose its full authority and peace in Lebanon. He said that the legitimacy must succeed in order to serve peace in Lebanon and the Arab world. Al-Hirawi further said that for the march in Lebanon to succeed there must be a deep and comprehensive Arab solidarity which would help Lebanon to overcome its ordeal and rebuild itself.

The Lebanese president reiterated his gratitude and appreciation for all the Arab brothers "who shared our pains and efforts. We also expect them to continue their backing and support for Lebanon in all fields to realize the aspirations of the Lebanese people for a better future."

The Lebanese president stressed that the Lebanese legitimacy has not failed and will not fail in imposing the state's authority on its territory.

Al-Hirawi said that when he assumed power he wanted the peace and accord march which was agreed upon at the al-Ta'if conference to be for all the Lebanese and he wanted all peace advocates to join it. He added: However, some opponents did not follow democratic methods to express their views. They expressed their views through war, haphazard shelling, and the destruction of the infrastructure, exposing Lebanon to the danger of emigration and exodus. There are some who still bet on the method of fighting.

President al-Hirawi reiterated his appeal to all to leave Lebanon alone, saying that all Lebanese are ready for reconciliation.

The Lebanese president said: When Lebanon demands the rebuilding of its army and internal security forces, its object is not any military action against any state or any group in Lebanon. The object is to rebuild the army so that it can go to the south to refute everything Israel says and to enable Lebanon to ask its Arab brothers and its friends at the Security Council to implement Resolution 425 so that Israel will withdraw from all of south Lebanon. Furthermore, Lebanon needs a security mechanism and not militias and rebel armies to implement its decisions. We discussed this with President Husni Mubarak and we believe that he is considering and studying it.

Regarding the presence of foreign troops on Lebanese territory, President Ilyas al-Hirawi said that there is an army of occupation and a fraternal state's army in Lebanon which came to the country at the Lebanese Government's request. He declared: The army of occupation must leave Lebanese territory in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 425 if we succeed in reequipping our army. The Arabs must help us to do this. He asked: Shall I ask Syria to leave Lebanon? Who will take its place? Lebanon has no power of its own. If such power were available, Syria would certainly accede to this request.

He said that the al-Ta'if agreement includes a program for the evacuation of Syrian forces from all Lebanese areas and that this is not connected with the presence of Israeli forces in the south. We hoped that in the wake of the al-Ta'if agreement all parties will join the peace process.

The Lebanese president denied that there is any pressure on him not to raise the issue of the border zone in the south because this is linked with the Palestinian issue. He frankly referred to his previous announcement that he had requested that the Lebanese issue be separated from the general Middle East issue. He said this does not signify that Lebanon is relinquishing its duty because it had performed this duty to the Palestinian issue thoroughly. He remarked that Lebanon has suffered more than any other Arab party as a result of this issue. He noted that demonstrations supporting the Palestinian issue have been seen on numerous occasions in Lebanon, which is something that did not happen anywhere else.

He added: We have had enough one-upmanship and enough talk about issues with which we are not linked. We insistently demand that the fraternal Arab countries separate our issue from that of the Middle East so that Lebanon can perform its duty like other Arab countries. But we cannot remain in this situation and wait for the Middle East issue to be resolved. Please excuse us. We are an independent state. We have suffered enough and we want the two issues to be separated.

President al-Hirawi urged all Arab countries to embark on a process of concord among them in light of the impending danger to them, both from Jewish immigration to Israel and the threat to pan-Arab security.

The Lebanese president repeated his thanks to the leaders of the Arab Tripartite Committee for their efforts in rebuilding Lebanese constitutional institutions and noted that in its latest report the committee had requested the establishment of an Arab fund to reconstruct Lebanon after the devastation it sufferred over the past 15 years. He stressed the importance of this fund and likened its role to that of the Marshall Plan which contributed to Europe's reconstruction and progress following the Second World War.

President al-Hirawi appealed to the Arabs to start this fund and make it an international one so that Lebanon can regain its wholesomeness and dynamism in all spheres, particularly in the field of development, and so that the Lebanese Government can establish its authority over all of Lebanon.

President al-Hirawi emphasized that President Mubarak and all of the Arab leaders are well aware of what is required for Lebanon and that they are carrying out their

duties. He added: We expect to see the satisfactory results of these efforts soon.

Regarding a possible military option to impose the Lebanese state's authority on all the land, the Lebanese president said that a this option was never considered. He added: We consider the Lebanese everywhere, both military personnel and civilians, as our sons. We ask them to join the peace process and rally around the banner of legitimacy and not resort to a military course.

President al-Hirawi stressed that there is no alternative to the legitimacy he represents and that he will not allow any partition or cantons and will not give reign to any group at the expense of the state and the citizens. He said: We have been very patient but let every know that we will absolutely not permit this to happen in Lebanon. He stressed that the Lebanese legitimacy will only resort to military action to prevent partition, the creation of cantons and hooliganism. To realize this it will use all methods, starting with the political methods and ending with the military ones.

The Lebanese president said that Egypt can play a big role vis-a-vis Resolution 425 because it can intercede with all groups, both American and Israeli, to ensure withdrawal from Lebanese territory. He explained that all he asks is to prevent a resort to the pretext of the so-called security of the south. He pointed out that when the Lebanese army is sent to the south, it would be possible to ask all states to invite Israel to withdraw from the south on the basis of the above resolution after ensuring the security of south Lebanon.

Regarding his meeting today with John McCarthy, the U.S. ambassador to Lebanon, the Lebanese president said that the security incidents in the eastern area of Beirut were the reasons Ambassador McCarthy left the embassy. He pointed out that an observer of the events in Lebanon would notice that there was always an ambassador and staff at the embassy until then and even at the time when one of the American ambassadors to Lebanon was assassinated.

Al-Hirawi denied that the ambassador has submitted new proposals. He said that the United States supports the legitimacy and the al-Ta'if accord. He added: We submitted to him several applications on the social level and we are waiting for an answer.

Departs for Libya

NC0706081090 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 7 Jun 90

[Excerpt] Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi, his wife, and the delegation accompanying him left Cairo this morning for Libya, following a three-day visit to Egypt. While here, he held talks with President Husni Mubarak on the Lebanese issue, the extraordinary Arab summit resolutions, and bilateral ties. President Husni Mubarak saw President al-Hirawi off at Cairo Airport. [passage omitted]

Egypt Agrees To Train Jordanians on Missiles

JN0706125090 Al-Shariqah AL-KHALIJ in Arabic 5 Jun 90 p 1

[Text] Cairo, AL-KHALIJ—Egypt has agreed to Jordan's request to train Jordanian military personnel on the use of Soviet-made SAM-8 and SAM-2 anti-aircraft missiles, when Colonel al-Qadhdhafi supplies Jordan with missile batteries of this type.

Egypt has also agreed to train crews on the use of certain Eastern-made B-10 and B-11 radars. [names as published]

Paper Calls for More Pressure on Gorbachev, Bush

NC0606093290 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0615 GMT 6 Jun 90

[Text] Cairo, 6 Jun (MENA)—AL-AKHBAR asserts in its editorial today that the Soviet and U.S. warning against the Israeli policy that aims to usurp what is left of Palestine by force and remove the Arab population from it was a result of joint Arab pressures on Moscow, particularly during President Mubarak's recent visit to the Soviet Union.

The paper notes that President Mubarak explained in his talks with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev the extent of dangers and bad consequences that would result from Shamir's plan to settle Soviet Jews in the occupied teritories.

AL-AKHBAR then calls on the Arab world leaders to continue their pressures on the Soviet Union and the United States so that both leaders will remain committed to the warning they declared openly and before the entire world. It adds: It is natural to expect an intensive Jewish and Zionist campaign by pro-Israel groups and committees in the United States and Europe against the Soviet president after he convinced President George Bush to side with him to send a clear warning to the Tel Aviv leaders against building settlements for Jewish immigrants from the Soviet Union in the occupied Palestinian territories.

The paper adds that the anticipated campaign began as soon as the joint news conference by Bush and Gorbachev ended following their summit in Washington and accusations have begun to be levelled against the Kremlin leader.

Concluding its editorial, the paper says: We must again expect to hear the loud shouts and well-known accusations of anti-Semitism which Zionist propaganda uses to pressure whoever opposes its plans and ambitions. We do not rule out that Israeli intelligence may organize a number of conferences to try to confirm the so-called anti-Semitic feelings.

Khalid 'Abd-al-Nasir Arrested at Airport 6 Jun

NC0706054890 Cairo MENA in English 2121 GMT 6 Jun 90

[Text] Cairo, June 6 (MENA)—Khalid 'Abd-al-Nasir was arrested as soon as he arrived at Cairo Airport tonight in implementation of a decision of the public prosecution for his accusation under the case of Egypt's Revolution organization.

The Supreme State Security Court of Cairo, which is considering the case, decided today to have a hearing session tomorrow.

Returns To Prove Innocence

NC0706072790 Cairo MENA in English 0656 GMT 7 Jun 90

[Text] Cairo, 7 June (MENA)—Khalid 'Abd-al-Nasir, son of the late leader Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir, who is involved in the case of Thawrat Misr (Egypt's Revolution) arrived from Federal Germany last night and turned himself over to the prosecution and was taken into custody, reported the three newspapers on their front pages.

Khalid, the second defendant in the case, told the authorities on his sudden arrival that I came to prove my innocence. He will appear today before the Highest State Security Court which is hearing the case.

Libya

Foreign Ministry Denies Role in 30 May Attack

LD0606151190 Tripoli JANA in English 1424 GMT 6 Jun 90

[Text] Tripoli, al-Sayf [June] 6, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—With regards to the campaign of hostility being launched by the Zionist enemy media against Great Jamahiriyah [words indistinct] operation carried out by a group of Palestinian guerrillas on the 30th of last month, the People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation Bureau issued the following statement:

The Zionist enemy, by way of its various apparatus, had escalated its campaign of hostility against Great Jamahiriyah since the bold operation carried out by group of Palestinian guerrillas on the 30th of last month.

At a time [when] the People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation Bureau is not [word indistinct] by the launching of such feverish campaigns by the Zionist enemy, it asserts the following:

First the above mentioned guerrilla operation was not the first and will never be the last, as it comes within the framework of the struggle of the Palestinian people in every means to regain its usurped rights and resist the Zionist terrorism. Great Jamahiriyah however has no connection and no relation with that operation. Previously the secretary of the People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation Bureau had asserted that in the statement he made in Cairo on the first of this month.

Second this campaign is considered as a reflection of the Zionist enemy's hostile policy and intentions against Libya and the Arab nation (?which) it endeavours to carry out on the ground of reality whenever it finds the suitable opportunity for that.

Third the People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation Bureau, as it affirms what have been said, it draws the attention of the world public opinion to the seriousness of such aggressive policy and that any act of aggression against Libya will be confronted with all firmness and strongly.

Al-Qadhdhafi Addresses Electricity Workers

LD0506105290

[Editorial Report] Tripoli Television Service in Arabic at 2002 GMT on 4 June broadcasts, following the evening newscast, a 51-minute recording of Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's speech to workers in the electricity sector. The address was delivered in a conference hall in Tripoli on 4 June and was relayed live to other venues throughout the country via closed-circuit television. The recording shows al-Qadhdhafi entering the hall, and being greeted with slogans and chants, one of which is: "Our leader, our teacher!"

Al-Qadhdhafi begins by reminding his audience that all decisions and laws in Libya are made by the people's committees, which are elected by the people. He goes on to extoll the merits of the people's committee system which, he maintains, enables the people to govern themselves without interference. Al-Qadhdhafi asserts that the demonstrations, the emergency of a plethora of political parties, and the disturbances in various parts of the world are but an indication that the era of the masses is not far off. He adds that the masses would be in control of their own destiny if they were to set up people's committees. He goes on to depict the life of the poor and underprivileged in the United States who, in his opinion, are left to die of cold, hunger, or illness. He also gives a lengthy description of the way demonstrations and protests are suppressed in many countries: The protesters are charged by mounted police, drenched with water hoses, beatean with special batons, and showered with stones.

Al-Qadhdhafi moves on to discuss the importance of the electricity sector and the need for good management. He calls on workers in this sector to join their respective unions: One for electrical engineers; another for electrical technicans, and a third for all ancilliary staff. Each of these three sections, he explains, will nominate some members to the Secretariat of the General Union of Electricity Workers. In every electricity company, a people's committee will then be formed and a secretary

will be elected to represent it at the General People's Committee for Electricity. From all the members of this general people's committee one will be elected as secretary to represent this committee at the General People's Congress. Al-Qadhdhafi spends a considerable amount of time repeatedly going over and explaining the same points.

Al-Qadhdhafi then criticizes the Libyan people for their excessive use of electricity and calls for energy-saving measures and a rationalization of electricity installations and equipment. In this respect, he adds that foreign companies are only too happy to supply Libya with large quantities of telegraph poles, light bulbs, and neon lights which are not all necessary.

Digressing somewhat, al-Qadhdhafi jokingly talks about the eagerness of other foreign companies to sell powerful radio transmitters to some Arab states to help them in their war of the air waves. He says: "The foreigners are laughing at us. I was talking with President Husni Mubarak one day and he said that Europe's radio stations—naturally Egypt has good relations with Europe and these companies—were laughing at the Arabs, saying: Let us hope the Arabs will always insult and remain hostile to one another. Why? Because every one of them wants to buy a radio station that is bigger than the other's so their insults can reach the other side. The Europeans say: We are happy when we build them a station of, say, 1,000 kilowatts; we tell them that next year we can build them a 2,000-kilowatt station. They say that the Arabs compete with one another: Some want a station to cover the Gulf region, others to cover North African, the Middle East, or the Fertile Crescent. They all are insulting one another and everyone wants his station to be more powerful so as to insult the others and make his insults heard."

Al-Qadhdhafi moves on to criticize the multiparty system, saying: "They do not know what to do with the multiparty system, through which everyone wants to gain power. The political parties are not the masses; these are leaders who want to gain power. The masses are still in the street staging demonstrations. They asked them: Have you not formed political parties? They replied: Honestly, these parties do not represent us; these are political parties but we the workers, the craftsmen, and the peasent farmers have not gained power. They told them again: But there is a party called the peasants' party.

"In actual fact, this peasants' party was set up by clever politicians, but we the real peasants have not shared the power. These are mere leaders. Some of them raise the banner of religion so as to lead the people in the name of religion in order to obtain power. You have seen elections based on religion. God does not get involved in elections, the ballot box, and polling. How can we involve our God, the heavens, the Koran, and religion in general in the elections, the referendum, the government, the ministry, and the demonstrations to such a degree? This is nonsense. This is not an economic or political demand. Religion is the property of everyone and it is something between man and his God. It has nothing to do with elections or referenda. How can anyone come in the name of religion, and hold elections and referendums and set up a front?

"The truth is that we are dealing with clever people. Some of them exploit religion, others exploit the name of the workers, the name of democracy, or the name of the people and call their parties: the people's party, the workers party, the democratic party, the Islamic party, the party of our god, the party of God, and so on. These are clever people who want to decieve the masses. And those who have nothing to offer use force to control these masses. If they have machine guns, guns, or swords they control people by force.

"The main thing is that groups of politicians would like to rule the masses. This is what has exposed the multiparty system. The political parties have not resolved the problems. On the contrary, the problems have become more complicated, and it is a mockery now that a multiparty system has been allowed. The trade unions are on the one side and the masses are on the other, and the political parties which bear these names are in power or are vying for power and the problem has not been resolved. Of course, the problem cannot be resolved because the people do not have the power in their hands. The people do not rule, the political parties are ruling on behalf of the parties, yet they claim that they represent the people."

Al-Qadhdhafi continues in the same vein by deriding the electoral system in Western democracies and stressing the high rate of abstention in elections. He cites the example of President Bush who, he claims, obtained 51 percent of the vote, while Dukakis received 49 percent. Al-Qadhdhafi argues that Dukakis should have been appointed vice president, since he came in second. Al-Qadhdhafi calls this a sham democracy and insists that all the masses are opposed to the party system. He then re-emphasizes the importance of direct democracy by the people and calls on the Libyan people to assume their responsibilities and rise to the challenge.

Mauritania

Mali's Traore Concludes Visit, Departs 6 June

LD0606230690 Nouakchott Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 6 Jun 90

[Text] General Moussa Traore, secretary-general of the Malian People's Democratic Union and state president, left Nouakchott this afternoon following a brief visit to our country, during which he had talks with Col. Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, CMSN [Military Committee for National Salutation] Chairman and president of state. [passage omitted]

Before the departure ceremony, Presidents Moussa Traore and Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya answered

journalists questions at the VIP lounge. At the beginning President Moussa Traore talked about the results of his visit to our country. He said that you are aware that these kind of visits take place on a periodic basis between Mauritania and Mali. Therefore, the friendly and working visit that I have paid to my brother and friend President Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya aims to strengthen cooperation between Mali and Mauritania on the one hand, and bolster cooperation in the region on the other hand.

Regarding bilateral relations, we talked about Mauritanian and Malian cooperation at the political level. We noted that cooperation in the economic field should raise to the level that cooperation between us in the political fields have reached. In this connection, the joint committee is called upon as from now to define the development goals that would enable us to reach the desired integration stipulated by the agreements and resolutions adopted by some regional movements such as the Economic Group of West Africa, the Economic Group of East-West African States.

Regarding the region, we were pleased that the river exploitation organization has been able to implement a speedy integration of our three countries. We are satisfied that this organization was not affected by the Mauritanian-Senegalese conflict.

With regard to this conflict, I am pleased that President Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya has decided to deploy all efforts to realize a lasting peace in the region. [passage omitted]

On his part, President Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya and CMSN chairman answered questions put by Malian journalists and expressed his satisfaction for having the opportunity to address the Malian people on the occasion of President Moussa Traore's visit to our country. He said that he is pleased with this visit and with meeting President Moussa Traore because we here in Mauritania are always pleased to welcome the Malian president among us. We discussed bilateral relations and also political issues particularly in our region. These elements consolidate ties between Mali and Mauritania and we are pleased over this.

Answering a question over a possible meeting between him and the Senegalese president in the near future, Col. Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya said that this question is difficult. A few days ago I heard that [Senegalese] President Abdou Diouf told the French LA CROIX that he cannot put a soldier at every 100 meters along his border to end the military skirmishes inside our soil. If this situation continues, and this should (?stop), a meeting between us will have little importance.

A journalist asked him whether the large family in West Africa may be optimistic, President Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya stated that one must always be an optimist, but one should shoulder one's responsibilities according to the nature of such responsibilities so that the peoples' aspirations are realized. [passage omitted]

Sudan

Khalifah Meets U.S. Official on U.S. Proposals

EA0606193290 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1450 GMT 6 Jun 90

[Text] Khartoum, 6 June (SUNA)—Colonel Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, Revolution Command Council member and head of the peace and foreign affairs department, met today Mr. (Geoffrey Leonstead), head of the Sudanese affairs section in the U.S. State Department. The meeting discussed U.S.-Sudanese efforts to achieve peace and restore stability.

The meeting agreed that one of the articles of the U.S initiative could be a subject for negotiation. It was agreed that it was not the policy of the U.S Government to impose a particular viewpont, but that the U.S Government was simply presenting proposals it regarded as appropriate to bring closer the viewpoints of the two parties in the conflict. These have complete freedom to accept [words indistinct] the U.S. Government proposals. The parties to the dispute could also present ideas which they regard to be suitable and appropriate for giving a push to the peace operation.

During the meeting, Col. Khalifah expressed, his hope that the U.S. administration would strive with urgency to push the peace operation forward.

Rebel Acceptance of Government Program Welcomed

PM0506141790 London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic 6 Jun 90 p 16

[Interview with Colonel Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, member of the Sudanese National Salvation Revolution Command Council, by Muhammad Sa'id al-Hasan in Khartoum; date not given]

[Text] [Al-Hasan] How would you assess the outcome of the Nairobi negotiations?

[Khalifah] The government delegation presented the program to the rebel movement during the second round of negotiations in Nairobi. And the government regarded the movement's recognition of the program as a basis for negotiations as a success for that round, despite what other parties announced about the collapse of negotiations.

The government cleaves to peace and is anxious to end the war. It sees that the negotiation process requires perseverance and patience. It has not been afflicted by hopelessness or desperation in seeking peace via continuous dialogue, which is a noble Sudanese value. This is despite the other side's preconditions and escalation of military operations. The government does not close any door to negotiation with the rebel movement, whether the door is opened by the movement or via good offices or by a regional or international initiative.

At the Nairobi round we differed over exceptional measures, the abolition of the shari'ah, the abolition of agreements, the lifting of the state of emergency, the formation of a broad-based government, and the merging of the two armies. But we reached an agreement on the constitutional conference. We also agreed to refer the constitutional conference's outcome to the Sudanese people in the form of a general referendum.

And we are confident that the government program, which espoused the recommendations of the national dialogue on peace, will have the solutions and answers for all the issues which they are raising, such as the Sudanese identity, the distribution of wealth and power, and the relationship between religion and the state.

[Al-Hasan] Has the government any conditions for the next round?

[Khalifah] The government accepted every initiative presented to it, proceeding from its desire to end the war and establish peace. It studied and responded to all the initiatives it received, including the U.S. initiative. And we have no preconditions except seriousness and the wish to move directly to the major issues, because the peace cause cannot endure one-upmanship, procrastination, or any wasting of time.

We have presented to the neighboring states, the Third World states, and the international community the government's program for the southern problem, for stopping the war, and for establishing peace. And they are all convinced of the seriousness of the program and of our desire to achieve peace to enable Sudan's sons to concentrate on building Sudan and eliminating the vestiges of war.

So we call on the movement to respond to the call of reason and responsibility and realize that this war is destroying the homeland's resources and claiming the lives of its sons, and that the only loser is Sudan. We believe that, once there is trust, seriousness, sincerity, and commitment, the Sudanese can resolve their problems.

[Al-Hasan] Do you think the movement can absorb present changes?

[Khalifah] I do not think it understands the scale of changes at the internal level and in all aspects of life. Nor does it understand that the various issues are being earnestly tackled, that the government has been able to stop deterioration in many fields, that the government has adopted a policy of self-reliance, and that ordinary citizens sense its seriousness about meeting the requirements of daily life, establishing security, and creating a climate for stability, work, and production.

[Al-Hasan] In whose interests is the continuation of the war?

[Khalifah] We sensed from all states a desire to end the war. They are also convinced by the government program for establishing peace in the South. And I believe that the only enemy to Sudan, its stability, and its resources is Israel. The war in the South serves its strategy of weakening and wasting Sudan's resources, since it fears Sudan's strength and stability as well as its orientations and steadfastness. And Israel does not want Sudan to be part of the Arab and Islamic nation, since Sudan confronts its hostile polices with hostility, oppose its settlement schemes, and backs the Palestinian revolution and the intifadah and their legitimate right to recover the usurped homeland.

There are many indications of Israel's military involvement as well as material and manpower support for the rebel movement. It also provides the movement with arms and training.

Last February three Israelis were badly wounded when a mine planted by the rebels exploded. They were transferred to a hospital in a neighboring state and then to Israel.

Bahrain

Foreign Minister Returns From GCC Meetings

JN0606063690 Manama WAKH in English 1515 GMT 5 Jun 90

[Excerpt] Manama, 5 Jun (GNA)—Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Ibn-Mubarak Al Khalifah returned home from al-Ta'if last night after heading Bahrain's delegation to the 35th session of the GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] Ministerial Council which concluded there yesterday. [passage omitted]

Kuwait

Council Hails Baghdad Summit, Yemeni Unification

LD0306180790 Kuwait KUNA in English 1445 GMT 3 Jun 90

[Text] Kuwait, June 3 (KUNA)—The Kuwaiti Council of Ministers on Sunday [3 June] expressed satisfaction over the outcomes of the emergency Arab summit held lately in Baghdad and welcomed the unification of the two parts of Yemen.

During its regular session chaired by the crown prince and prime minister Sheikh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim, the Council hailed the results of the summit after listening to a report yesterday from his highness the amir, a report today by deputy premier and foreign minister and a report by state minister for cabinet affairs.

The summit was held upon a call by the state of Palestine to discuss threats to Arab national security, especially U.S. and Israeli collaboration against interests of the Arab world. The summit also addressed the peril of Soviet Jews emigration to the occupied Arab lands.

State Minister for Cabinet Affairs Rashid al-Rashid told reporters after the Cabinet's session that the Council considered the decisions adopted by the Baghdad summit as a "qualitative addition" toward reorganization of joint Arab efforts.

On the Yemeni unification step, the Council of Ministers lauded the effort calling it "a conscious step" representing the return to "normalcy" and ending the state of partitioning, according to al-Rashid.

"This positive transoformation," he added, "forms an important achievement on both the local and national levels reflecting the possibility of embodying the Arab will."

On other issues, the Cabinet was briefed by the minister al-Rashid on the talks held in Kuwait with the minister of administrative development in Egypt who visited Kuwait last week.

The Cabinet was also briefed by Sheikh Sa'd on the visit to Kuwait last week by Malian President Moussa Traore who met with senior Kuwaiti officials topped by the amir.

Several decisions were taken by the Council on a number of other issues related to local questions, al-Rashid concluded.

Foreign Minister Receives PLO's Qaddumi

LD0306184690 Kuwait KUNA in English 1702 GMT 3 Jun 90

[Text] Kuwait, June 3 (KUNA)—Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir received here Sunday [3 June] chief of the PLO political department Faruq Qaddumi, who is in Kuwait on a private visit.

Latest developments in the Palestinian arena and the Palestinian uprising in the occupied Arab lands were discussed during the meeting, in addition to several current Arab and international issues.

Defense Minister Receives Egyptian Delegation

LD0606113690 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 6 Jun 90

[Excerpts] The minister of defense, Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad al-Jabir, met this morning in his office at the Ministry of Defense with a military delegation from the Arab Republic of Egypt, which is currently visiting the country. The delegation is led by the assistant commander of the air defence forces, Major General Mustafa al-Salawi. [passage omitted]

The delegation conveyed to Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad a message from General Yusif Sabri Abu Talib, the commander in chief of the Armed Forces and minister of defense and military production of the Arab Republic of Egypt.

A spokesman for the Ministry of Defense said that during the meeting the prospects for developing military cooperation between the two fraternal countries were discussed.

Oman

Algerian Foreign Minister Concludes Visit

LD0506224390 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 5 Jun 90

[Text] Mr. Ahmed Ghazali, minister of foreign affairs, concluded his visit to Oman this evening after a series of talks with Omani officials in which bilateral relations were assessed and the means of consolidating them in all fields were investigated.

The two sides agreed on the need to complete the procedures of the joint committee and invite it to hold its first meeting in Algeria.

The visit was also an opportunity to exchange views about the majority of the Arab, African, and international issues.

The two sides expressed their satisfaction with the new events in the Iraq-Iran conflict, and expressed hope that the initiatives of both sides will lead to direct negotiations between them which will achieve peace and stability in the region.

The two sides reviewed the situation in Lebanon and stressed that al-Ta'if agreement is the only guarantee for preserving Lebanese unity, security, and stability.

GCC Information Ministers Meet in Muscat

JN0606160590 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 6 Jun 90

[Excerpts] Their excellencies the information ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] states started at noon today their fifth round of meetings under the chairmanship of [Omani] Information Minister 'Abd-al-'Aziz Bin-Muhammad al-Rawwas. At the beginning of the meeting his excellency delivered a speech in which he conveyed to their excellencies the ministers the greetings of Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id, chairman of the 10th round of the GCC Supreme Council. [passage omitted]

The ministers then held their first closed working session to discuss the recommendations of the third round of meetings of the GCC Information Ministries' undersecretaries, which was held on 14 May. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

King Briefs Council of Ministers on Arab Summit

LD0406194390 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 4 Jun 90

[Excerpt] King Fahd Ibn 'Abd al-Aziz Al Sa'ud, servant of the two holy mosques, chaired the Council of Ministers meeting this afternoon, Monday, 4 June, at the Al-Salam Palace in Jeddah.

Following the session, Information Minister His Excellency 'Ali al-Sha'ir, made a statement to SPA [SAUDI PRESS AGENCY]: At the beginning of today's session the servant of the two holy mosques briefed the Council of Ministers on the results and resolutions of the extraordinary Arab summit which was held in the Iraqi capital, Baghdad, on 28 May. He praised the positive fraternal spirit which prevailed during the summit and helped to make the aims of the summit successful. The king said that the Baghdad summit has realized many achievements which serve the issues of the Arab nation as outlined in the comprehensive statement of the summit which contained the resolutions announced by the Arab League secretary general at the final session. The king stated that there is nothing to be added to what the statement outlined except that I want to refer to the precision in organization and excellent administration in all the measures relating to the conference's work.

The information minister said that the servant of the two holy mosques also explained to the Council of Ministers the steps which preceded the adoption of the declared resolution in favor of the Lebanese issue. The king reaffirmed that the Tripartite Arab Committee will continue its work and by following up on the committee member states foreign ministers' work implement the remaining stages of the clauses in the national document. This was laid down and approved by the Lebanese parliamentarians in al-Ta'if, with the cooperation of all sides concerned with solving the Lebanese crisis. It points out that the messages, cables, and statements of the Lebanese officials constitute positive replies to the Baghdad summit. This gives rise to much hope that wide relaxations will take place in the Lebanese arena in general.

Minister al-Sha'ir continued saying that after that the council—on the king's directive—reviewed the most prominent political and security developments at the Arab and international levels. The servant of the two holy mosques informed the Council of the results of his meetings and talks with his brothers—the Arab kings, presidents, and amirs in Baghdad, and yesterday with His Excellency Douglas Hurd, British foreign and commonwealth secretary, and today with Turkish Minister of State Cemil Cicek. [passage omitted]

United Arab Emirates

Official Returns From GCC Meetings 5 June

JN0506200590 Manama WAKH in English 1518 GMT 5 Jun 90

[Excerpt] Abu Dhabi, 5 Jun (GNA)—UAE [United Arab Emirates] Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Rashid 'Abdallah 'Ali al-Nu'aymi returned home today after participating in the meeting of the Arab Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Foreign Ministers in al-Ta'if. [passage omitted]

Yemen Arab Republic

Salih Thanks Gorbachev for Greetings

PM3105130190 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 30 May 90 Second Edition p 1

[Yemen Republic president's message to M.S. Gorbachev]

[Text] To His Excellency USSR President M.S. Gorbachev.

Your message containing greetings on the occasion of the proclamation of the Yemen Republic and congratulations on my election as chairman of the Presidential Council was gratefully received.

I and my colleagues on the Presidential Council are highly appreciative of the friendly Soviet Union's willingness, expressed by you, to develop and deepen Soviet-Yemeni relations and, for our part, we confirm the Yemen Republic's desire to strengthen friendly relations and fruitful cooperation between the Yemeni and Soviet peoples, who are linked by traditionally strong ties.

In conclusion, I wish you good health and happiness and I wish the friendly Soviet people further progress and prosperity.

With deep respect,

Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Yemen Republic Presidential Council.

Officials To Meet in Moscow To Prepare Talks

PM0606135990 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 5 Jun 90 p 1

[Zaki Shihab report: "Diplomatic Sources Tell AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Arrangements for Meeting Between Iraqi and Iranian Officials in Moscow"]

[Text] London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Informed Arab diplomatic sources have revealed that arrangements are being made to hold a meeting between Iraqi and Iranian officials in Moscow, by way of a start for arranging meetings at higher levels between officials from the two countries.

The sources, which were speaking to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Baghdad, pointed out that the arrangements in question, which are expected to produce a meeting between the two countries' officials this month, are the result of direct and indirect contacts between the two countries, most importantly the letters exchanged between Iraqi President Saddam Husayn and Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani. These letters dealt with a proposal about direct negotiations on the outstanding issues between the two countries which prevent the implementation of Resolution 598, adopted by the UN Security Council two years ago and under which the two countries have observed a cease-fire.

The sources quoted informed Soviet circles as saying they welcome the meetings convened between Iran and Iraq. In that regard they pointed out that the Soviet Union was in the forefront of the states which called for direct dialogue between the two countries. That was following Rafsanjani's visit to the Soviet capital, which took place a few days after Khomeyni's death.

The sources did not rule out a possible meeting between the foreign ministers of the two countries, Tariq 'Aziz and 'Ali Akbar Velayati, which will be a step to prepare for the meeting between Presidents Saddam and Hashemi-Rafsanjani, especially as Iraqi circles have indicated that there is a clear Iraqi inclination in that regard, although there is a time factor involved.

The Iraqi circles linked these orientations to open Iraqi statements made by Tariq 'Aziz at a press conference last Thursday [31 May], in which he said that direct contacts between the two countries were proceeding normally.

President Saddam Husayn's letter and Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani's reply to it included proposals about the capitals expected to witness their meeting, in addition to a proposal about convening a meeting between the two countries' foreign ministers.

Taha Yasin Ramadan, first deputy prime minister of Iraq and member of the Revolution Command Council, described the contacts between the two countries as the result of the conviction that no one knows about the realities of solutions better than those who are involved in the problems themselves.

Embassy Issues Memo on Israeli Attack Anniversary

JN0606161190 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1430 GMT 6 Jun 90

[Text] Geneva, 6 Jun (INA)—The permanent Iraqi mission in Geneva today distributed a memorandum marking the ninth anniversary of the Zionist military aggression on the Iraqi nuclear installations which were built for peaceful purposes.

The memorandum, which was issued in both French and Arabic, urged the international community to take measures to effect a comprehensive disarmament involving all mass destruction weapons and not just a single category of these weapons.

The memorandum, which was distributed to the UN European Headquarters, to all Arab and foreign missions, and to the Geneva-based UN organizations, said that placing emphasis on a single category of weapons means that there are efforts to effect a partial disarmament based on the pursuit of a selective approach concerning the region.

Saddam Chairs Joint Meeting on Baghdad Summit

JN0306085290 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 2 Jun 90

[Text] His Excellency President leader Saddam Husayn today chaired a joint meeting of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] and the Regional Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party.

During the meeting, the conferees reviewed the results of the extraordinary Arab summit.

The RCC and the Regional Command expressed high appreciation for the great pan-Arab accomplishments scored by the Arab summit to enhance joint Arab action and safeguard pan-Arab security. The RCC and the Regional Command underscored the serious and practical nature characterizing the summit resolutions, particularly those concerning Arab solidarity in the face of the threats posed to pan-Arab security and the aggressive attempts against the Arab nation. The RCC and the Regional Command also underlined the organic and unmistakably clear relationship between national and pan-Arab security.

The RCC and the Regional Command paid tribute to the important steps taken by the summiteers to bolster joint Arab action and hold regular Arab summits.

His Excellency President Saddam Husayn expressed his appreciation as well as the appreciation of the RCC and Regional Command for all employees working in the various fields who contributed toward the success of the summit. In particular, he expressed his appreciation for the Baghdad residents who showed their hospitality to our brothers, Arab kings, presidents, and amirs and their delegations during their stay in Baghdad, thus demonstrating in the best possible manner the well-known and noble Iraqi hospitality.

Shamir Gains Support from Labor, 62 MK's

TA0606191290 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 6 Jun 90

[Excerpts] Sixty-two Knesset members [MK's] support the Cabinet Yitzhaq Shamir intends to present. Alignment MK Efrayim Gur signed an agreement with the Likud this afternoon and will be appointed deputy minister in the Immigrant Absorption Ministry. Efforts to sign additional coalition agreements will be made tomorrow in a bid to overcome several difficulties with portfolios which the Likud see as problems, but not fundamental problems that might torpedo the formation of the Cabinet. [passage omitted]

MK Efrayim Gur will quit the Labor Party and set up a one-man party. MK Gur is expected to be appointed deputy minister in one of the government's economic ministries [as heard]. MK Gur will also be promised a slot guaranteeing him a Knesset seat on the Likud's next Knesset ticket, and his associates will be added to the Likud Central Committee. [passage omitted]

Likud Gets Agreement With Tehiya on Ministership

TA0606195490 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1930 GMT 6 Jun 90

[Text] Tehiya will get a position of deputy minister in the science and energy [as heard] ministry for Knesset Member Ge'ula Kohen. This was agreed this evening in a meeting of the Tehiya and the Likud teams which lasted four hours. The Tehiya thus gave up on its demand of a position of deputy minister in the Prime Minister's Office. Prof. Yuval Ne'eman will be science and energy minister. Several other agreements in principle on issues of defense and politics were also agreed on in the meeting. The Tehiya will have a free vote on these issues. This was reported by our correspondent Mikha'el Birehnack.

Labor's Gur Resigns To Set Up 'One-Man Faction'

TA0706105790 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 7 Jun 90

[Text] Knesset Member Efrayim Gur has resigned from the Labor Party on the eve of his possible enrollment in the ranks of the Likud bloc. Our party affairs correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that a short while ago, Efrayim Gur met with Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres, to whom he handed his letter of resignation. [In a related report, Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 0930 GMT on 7 June adds that in their meeting, "Efrayim Gur officially advised Peres" that he is "setting up a one-man faction."]

Gur contended that he had encountered a hostile attitude in the party and noted that he had not prevented Peres from trying to become prime minister at the time that this was relevant. Peres' confidants said, however, that it is still unclear what direction Gur intends to take. The Alignment follow-up team will meet this afternoon to discuss, first and foremost, the party's relations with Agudat Yisra'el.

Likud, SHAS Sever Contact; Problems With NRP

TA0706115790 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 7 Jun 90

[Text] On the eve of the establishment of a new government, all contacts between the Likud and SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] have been severed. Our political correspondent Arye Golan quotes Minister Ehud Olmert as saying that if SHAS does not join the government, Mr. Shamir will be unable to form a government. The SHAS Council of Torah Scholars is scheduled to convene on Sunday [10 June].

In addition, problems have arisen in negotiations with the NRP [National Religious Party]. Our party affairs correspondent reports that the widely prevailing attitude among the members of the NRP Bureau, which is convening at this moment, is against the intention to appoint a representative of Degel Hatora to the post of director general of the Religious Affairs Ministry. The NRP's Dr. Yosef Burg has termed the design political chutzpah. It is believed, however, that the NRP negotiating team will be instructed to find a solution to the Degel Hatora demand.

Captured 'Terrorist' Gives Details on Attack

TA0606161990 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1605 GMT 5 Jun 90

[Report on interview with Muhammad Ahmad Muhammad Yusuf, "deputy commander of the terrorist force which attempted to attack Israeli beaches on 30 May" by Arab affairs correspondent Aharon Barne'a]

[Text] Although Muhammad Ahmad Muhammad Yusuf, nicknamed Abu-al-Shash, is only 28 years old, he has a long record in terrorist organizations, and a long history as a senior fighter. He was born in 1962 in al-Qunaytirah to a Palestinian family which had emigrated from the Hula Valley village of Duwayr. In 1967, his family moved to the Sayd 'Azayna refugee camp in Damascus, where Muhammad attended school up to fourth grade. After that, he worked to help his father.

By the age of 15, he joined Fatah in Lebanon, serving in Force 17 as a bodyguard in Yasir 'Arafat's headquarters in Beirut. After that—compulsory service in the Syrian Army in a Palestinian Liberation Army unit in the Lebanon War. He was captured by Fatah in Tripoli and returned to the organization. With a Fatah unit he left for North Yemen where he received paratrooper training; then on to Iraq for commando and antitank artillery training in the Iraqi Army—but in the framework of Fatah. It was only in October 1988, about 18 months ago, that he left Fatah and joined Abu al-'Abbas' [Muhammad Zaydan 'Abbas] organization, the Palestine Liberation Front [PLF].

From Baghdad, he was transferred to Libya, where he underwent 18 months of naval training on a Libyan Navy base. About six months before the operation, he and 20 others were notified that they were slated for an operation in Israel. The date and the place were not specified at this stage. Training was intensified, including maneuvers with a Libyan frigate and exercises with live fire at targets on the beach. All this training was directed by Lieutenant Colonel 'Ali from the Libyan Navy. At first the group trained on rubber boats, and later on the Volvo speedboats with which they reached Israeli shores on Shavuot.

During this entire period of 18 months with the Libyan Navy, Abu al-'Abbas made a personal appearance once every four to five months. His deputy, Abu al-'Izz, accompanied the group during most of the time.

Five days before the operation the six boats were taken out of the water and covered with a special paint which allowed them—so he says—to evade radar. At this point they already knew they were about to leave on an operation, although they still did not know the time and place. Abu al-Shash was appointed deputy commander of the operation.

One Friday, Abu al-'Izz announced that they were about to leave for another training session. He did not say they were about to launch an operation. Both he and Abu al-Qasim, the commander of the organization's naval force, left with them. At 0100, 20 of them left by bus escorted by cars of the Libyan security forces in the direction of the shore. At the shore, Abu al-'Izz told them that all 20 were about to depart for an operation in Israel. The instructions, he said, would be given on board ship. They got off the bus and boarded three trucks belonging to the Libyan defense forces. On Saturday [26 May] at 2300 they reached the shore and spent the night. Abu al-'Abbas arrived there on Sunday [27 May] morning, met them and told them: You are going on a mission in the land of Palestine. No other details were given at that point.

Take care, Abu al-'Abbas told them before departing, we want none of you to be taken prisoner. Three rubber boats then arrived at the beach. They were accompanied by Lt. Col. Zuhayr, the commander of the Libyan naval commandos. Eighteen men [figure as heard] boarded the boats and sailed toward the Libyan mother ship, a civilian commercial vessel. The six speedboats and weapons were on board. Abu al-'Abbas, who stayed on shore, told them that Abu al-'Izz would give them all the instructions after they boarded.

Lt. Col. Zuhayr was on the Libyan ship, and he stayed with the group until the speedboats were lowered to the sea. The PLF members on board were Abu al-'Izz, Abu al-'Abbas' deputy, and Abu al-Qasim, the head of the naval branch of the PLF, and a trainer by the name of Nidal. On the ship, Abu al-'Izz told them they were not allowed on deck during the day. During daytime you are to stay below, he told them, and only at night may you go on deck. While on board, Abu al-Qasim showed them a video of the hotel area on the Tel Aviv shore. The next day [not further specified] at 2100, before they left the mother ship, Abu al-'Izz came and said: The target of the mission is what you saw on video last night: The area of the Tel Aviv hotels.

While still at sea you must begin by shelling the hotels on the beach, Abu al-'Izz told them. Fire at them using your 107 mm Katyushas, 23 mm cannons, and machine guns. Bombard the houses, the hotels, and everything in the vicinity. Then you are to go on shore and kill every civilian you see; anyone who is on the beach or the adjacent streets. Then you will enter the hotels and kill everyone you encounter. I personally, Abu al-Shash said, was ordered to enter the Sheraton Hotel. You must go in there and purge it from the inside, he was told. Do not leave a soul alive. Kill whoever comes your way, they were told, spare no one; women, old men, children, kill them all.

Seventeen men [figure as heard] boarded the six speedboats, one of which was a fuel boat from which they refueled every 60 to 90 minutes. I refueled twice, Abu al-Shash said. On the speedboats were 23 mm cannons, 14.5 mm machine guns, and 107 mm Katyusha launchers. At 0330 we decided to anchor at sea and sleep. He went on to say that when they continued sailing in the morning, they saw a ship lowering two boats into the water. They tried to escape, but a plane was already above them. Then they reached the beach. They hid in an area of low shrubs, and were immediately surrounded by four helicopters. Five of us, said Abu al-Shash, threw away our guns and surrendered. Of the others who fired at the helicopters, four were killed, and two were taken prisoner. IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers came and took us, Abu al-Shash said. That is all. That is the whole story. But Muhammad Abu al-Shash, six days in an Israeli prison, has firm conclusions about the operation: It was a failure from the word go. Whether he and his colleagues live or die, he does not care.

Intelligence Chief on Fatah Attacks, Uprising

TA0606181290 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 6 Jun 90

[Text] The head of Military Intelligence, Major General Amnon Shahaq, says that the terrorist organizations, including Fatah, have never stopped terrorist operations, and although last week's failed attack against the hotel area in Tel Aviv may make them more cautious, it will not deter future terrorist operations. Gen. Shahaq talked about the problem of terror to reporter Alan Ben-'Ami:

[Begin recording] [Shahaq] We have been facing terrorist activities since a long time, and even recently we should remember what happened in Jerusalem last week, we know what happened in the Lebanese border, and the terrorists never gave up trying to attack Israeli targets by terrorist means. So I don't think that the last failure will stop terrorist activities.

[Ben-'Ami] At the same time, there has definitely been a reduction in operations by Fatah, 'Arafat's Fatah.

[Shahaq] There was no reduction. There was reduction from the Lebanese border, but there was no reduction by the Fatah. I think—I don't have here the exact numbers—but the Fatah launched more than few attacks in Israel against Israeli citizens by terrorist means.

[Ben-'Ami] There is speculation that if there's no movement in the peace process, the extent of terrorist operations in the territories is likely to increase, is likely to involve much more the use of weapons, guns.

[Shahaq] We know that there are arguments now in the organizations if they should try and make more terrorist activities. The other question is: Will it be easy for them to do so. We found some modern weapons like M-16's and things like this—I am talking about light weapons. The question if and when they are going to use it, I think that they have been using it all the time. The question is if they are going to use it much more than they did in the past.

I believe that we are part of the answer, and our activities is part of what they will dare to do. And I believe that we are prepared for such a thing, if it will happen. [end recording]

Ministry Official: No Military Aid to Ethiopia

TA0606183990 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 6 Jun 90

[Text] Not one Israeli military adviser has set foot in Ethiopia since the resumption of diplomatic relations between the two countries. This was stated this afternoon by the director general of the Foreign Ministry, Re'uven Merhav, at a briefing to diplomatic reporters. Jack Katzenell reports:

[Begin recording] I don't know where all these rumors about Israeli military aid to Ethiopia are coming from, Re'uven Merhav said. When Ethiopia agreed to resume diplomatic relations with Israel, there was no condition that Jerusalem had to supply military aid, and not one Israeli military adviser has set foot in Ethiopia since relations were resumed.

The director general also poured scorn on the report which appeared some time ago that Israel was involved in a project to divert the head waters of the Blue Nile. The Israeli national water company, Tahal, does have a team working in Ethiopia, Merhav conceded, but it was building a dam on a river about 700 km from the Blue Nile.

Israel has supplied extensive agricultural, medical, and humanitarian aid to Ethiopia, Merhav said, and has helped Addis Ababa to improve its relations with the United States and with international monetary institutions.

The director general expressed the hope that all the remaining Jews in Ethiopia will be in Israel within a year. He disclosed that most of the Falashas—the Ethiopian Jews—who were in rebel-held areas had been got out, and are now concentrated in and around Addis Ababa. They all have relatives in Israel, Re'uven Merhav said, and are being brought to Israel, though not in a continuous airlift. The process is somewhat bureaucratic, he said, and is based on the principle of family reunification. There are about 14,000 Falashas left in Ethiopia, the number in and around the capital is between 8,000 and 9,000.

The Falashas were not the only interest which Israel had in Ethiopia, Merhav said. For Israel, Ethiopia represents a friendly country on the southern Red Sea coast, a friendly port of call close to the Horn of Africa. Moreover, Addis Ababa is the headquarters of the Organization of African Unity, and an Israeli presence there means access to other key African countries. [end recording]

U.S. Policy Seen Playing to Internal Politics

TA0606151790 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 6 Jun 90 p B1

[Commentary by 'Aqiva Eldar: "Temporary Stalemate"]

[Text] During the days when there was a sober and responsible government in Jerusalem, the harsh messages [U.S.] Ambassador William Brown regularly delivered were quite enough to move heaven and earth. But the ruling party, whose leaders are busy courting the political party advocating the transfer of Israeli Arabs, does not have time to get excited about an extraordinary public offensive by the leaders of the two superpowers.

Yitzhaq Shamir has developed a hide impenetrable to any type of denunciation. The Americans, and many Israelis, who did not want to believe that the prime minister really means all the negative things he has disseminated in recent years, are beginning to understand that he is really convinced that what is taking place in relations with Washington are merely "legitimate transitory differences." Even the U.S. Administration's decision to delay approving the immigrant housing loan until Israel agrees to extricate the peace process from the stalemate is not making too much of an impression here.

Henry Kissinger once said that the Israeli leadership does not have a foreign policy, only an internal policy. There are growing signs that where Middle East policy is concerned, Kissinger's analysis also holds true for his home turf. While the pundits are busy making apocalyptic forecasts about Israeli-U.S. relations, there is growing evidence that concern for popularity is gaining ground over cold-blooded political and military considerations.

Abu al-'Abbas [Muhammad 'Abbas] elected to provide ammunition to congressional activists who are supported by Jewish organizations at a time when the

administration is especially sensitive to any hiccup. The terrorist scheme enabled Jewish leaders, who had been forced to join the criticism of Israel because of its behavior, to again publicly display their loyalties. Six months before the next round of congressional elections neither of the U.S. parties wants to make things any harder than necessary on Israel, especially as there are no guarantees that the range of moves the administration can take within the framework of acceptable relations with friendly countries will bear political fruit.

That is probably the background to the new instructions the Washington political echelon handed down to government officials. Two weeks ago there was a guideline to speed up the political dialogue with the Arabs and give Israel the cold shoulder, while a few days later petitions in favor of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel were bon ton again in Washington. The administration foiled all international efforts to take any action beyond the barren rhetoric against Israel, and issued a threat to cease the dialogue with the PLO.

This behavior is in addition to other evidence indicating that the American school of thought which maintains that the United States should not abandon the Middle East finds it hard to confront the group that proposes that the administration wash its hands of the problem. Egyptian President Husni Mubarak's hard-hitting cable was chiefly aimed at warning President Bush that Middle East vacuums are quickly filled by wars. The intifadah provides daily evidence of this truth.

Egypt warned Washington about the repercussions of a policy which accepts the deadlock and hands over its franchise to local activists. Mubarak recalls that he went to Baghdad and stood as a bulwark against rejectionist front efforts to foil political options. On his return to Cairo, we were informed that the United States had imposed a veto on the minimalist Arab proposal to dispatch a delegation to the territories which would report to the Security Council. If that is the type of message you are dispatching to Shamir, what value does an Egyptian Don Quixote-like struggle have, the U.S. ambassador in Cairo was asked. PLO figures considered among the most moderate in the PLO leadership say that if Washington wants to play internal politics at the expense of regional policies, there will be no point in continuing the dialogue.

Mubarak warns that if he does not present the Arab League conference, which he hosts in Cairo in November, with proven successes for his peace doctrine, it is doubtful whether he will again be able to withstand the avalanche. The Arab consensus might get caught up in a new irreversible balance of forces in the region. It is bad luck that November is also the height of internal political activity in the United States, which means that hopes for a strong political wind from the West will have to be postponed until the winter. That is also the date for the next Palestine National Council meeting, which might also be critical for the Palestinians' continued political strategy.

Since the Israeli Government of mid-1990 does not show any signs of being vulnerable to political initiatives, there is room to take seriously Palestinian, Egyptian, and American circles who claim that the opposite of peace will be war.

Editorial: U.S. Provoking PLO To Cease Dialogue

TA0606153790 Jerusalem AL-SHA'B in Arabic 5 Jun 90 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "The Meetings of Review and Reassessment"]

[Text] Amid a series of rapid developments in the Arab and international arenas, and the visible and invisible effects that these developments have or might generate, especially with regard to the peace process in the region, the PLO Executive Committee began its emergency meetings in Baghdad yesterday. The committee will discuss several topics, foremost the recent U.S. threats to cease the dialogue with the PLO, the repercussions of the Bush-Gorbachev summit, the results of the Arab summit in Baghdad, and the repercussions of the recent U.S. veto in the Security Council.

The provocative U.S. threats against the PLO induced the Executive Committee to speed up the process of reassessing and undertaking a comprehensive and meticulous review of the snail-like dialogue. This dialogue has raised many questions in the Palestinian arena, especially since it has not advanced beyond the positions from which it was launched. This proves that there is no U.S. intention to develop the dialogue further than its ambassador in Tunis, because it dares not irritate Shamir and his ruling clique.

Undoubtedly, as the Palestinian leadership is distinguished for its sagacity in running affairs, it can respond to the U.S. provocations in a way that will expose the United States before the world as a great power that does not respect its commitments, which Bush undertook when he assumed power. In addition to this, the United States will be exposed as being totally biased in favor of Israel, as well as providing total political cover for Israeli policies that are condemned internationally. This is not befitting a superpower like the United States which claims to want to preserve world security and peace.

There is also no doubt that the Palestinian leadership is completely aware of the aims of the U.S. threats to cease the dialogue. These aims seek to provoke the PLO into initiating the severance of the dialogue. Thus Washington will no longer be bound to its commitments to implement its plan and exert pressure on Yitzhaq Shamir, who is still persisting in his positions that reject peace.

The question of ceasing or maintaining the dialogue depends on how Washington deals with the peace process after the time limit granted to Yitzhaq Shamir to form a government expires. The Palestinians will not continue this dialogue unless Washington upgrades its

level and provides it with a momentum that can achieve the goals for which it was launched. How can the Palestinians accept a motionless dialogue that does not respond to all the positive contributions made by their leadership to advance the peace process? These contributions have been welcomed by all the world's countries.

It is insufficient for Washington to merely forego its threats to cease the dialogue. Rather, it is required to develop this dialogue, raise its level, and exert effective pressure on Israel's leaders to force them to respond to the requirements of peace. Moreover, it is insufficient for the international community to witness Washington's wiles and merely condemn and denounce U.S. transgressions. This community must also play its required role in advancing the peace process and sparing the region new wars and disasters.

Boy Killed in Nabulus; General Strike in Effect

TA0506104390 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1000 GMT 5 Jun 90

[Report by correspondent in the territories 'Ido Shargil]

[Text] Al-Ittihad Hospital in Nabulus this morning reported on a 10-year-old local boy who had been seriously wounded and subsequently died of his wounds. Military sources reported that several rubber bullets had been fired in stone-throwing incidents near the 'Askar refugee camp. As previously reported, a later report stated that one boy had been killed. Colonel 'Amos, commander of the Nabulus area, is on the scene looking into the circumstances of the incident.

A general strike is in force today in Judaea and Samaria in keeping with the call of the Unified National Command of the Uprising. The strike was called to mark the 23d anniversary of the Six-Day War and the occupation of Judaea and Samaria. Leaflet No. 57 also called on the population to fly PLO flags today.

The Israeli Army this morning lifted the curfew on the town of Shuwaykah near Tulkarm, which had been imposed after soldiers reported hearing shots. A subsequent check revealed the noise to have been caused by iron marbles thrown at a tractor. Curfews remain in effect in the Tulkarm refugee camp and the village of 'Abud.

Second Youth Killed

TA0506164190 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 5 Jun 90

[Text] A 14-year-old youth was killed by IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers in Nabulus this afternoon. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that four ax-carrying masked figures were spotted by the troops who proceeded to call on the group to halt, as required by the regulation on detention of suspects. After the youths failed to obey the order, the soldiers fired in their direction, wounding one of the four. A hospital later reported that the youth died of his wounds.

Curfew Reimposed Following Unrest

TA0606193790 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 6 Jun 90

[Excerpt] The curfew on Nabulus was reimposed following the violent incidents in town yesterday. The military police are investigating the circumstances that led to the death of two children—one 10 years old and the other 13 years old—by IDF [Israel Defense Forces] gunfire.

During the past three months, six children and youths were killed by rubber bullets. [passage omitted]

Lower House Begins Extraordinary Session 5 Jun

JN0606113990 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 6 Jun 90 p 1

[Excerpt] Amman (J.T.)—The Lower House of Parliament began an extraordinary session Tuesday [5 June] and referred to its respective committees several draft laws and amendments to legislation forwarded to it by the government.

The draft laws and amendments assigned to the committees relate to economic crimes, higher education and universities, imports and exports, foreign investments, the penal code, the national military service, the defence law, foreign residents, and illegal profiteering.

At the end of the session, which was attended by Prime Minister Mudar Badran, Cabinet members and 76 deputies, Speaker Sulayman 'Arar announced that the House would hold its next meeting Saturday.

In addition to debating draft laws and amendments, the House will also discuss Soviet Jewish immigration to Palestine, policies in regard to rising prices and unemployment, educational and information policies, issues referred to it by its Finance Committee and a report by the Audit Bureau. [passage omitted]

Paper Notes King's Remarks on Israeli Radicalism

JN0606094590 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 6 Jun pp 1,20

[Editorial: "Radicalism Only Generates Radicalism"]

[Text] In a frank statement to the mission for a just solution in the Middle East led by former U.S. Senator Charles Percy, His Majesty King Husayn cautioned that Israel's radical stands are bound to generate radicalism on the other side, which would torpedo all hopes attached to peace efforts in the region.

Because, when the Palestinians and the Arabs did everything that was asked of them in order to open the door for achieving just peace in the Middle East, Israel held tenaciously to its intransigent stand and went further to totally reject any international initiative to achieve progress toward the cherished peace.

What is exacerbating the situation is the increasing Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union and the settlement of these emigres in the occupied Palestinian land, which will increase tension and torpedo the stumbling peace process, especially since the arrival of large numbers of these emigres has encouraged the Shamir government to openly speak of the need for Greater Israel.

This is why the Arabs view this wave of Jewish emigrants as a danger and direct threat which goes beyond the boundaries of the occupied Palestinian territories to include neighboring Arab states, especially Jordan, where members of Shamir's government do not hesitate to declare arrogantly that the Palestine question must be solved at the expense of Jordan.

The American-Canadian peace mission, which has toured the region and seen with its own eyes the Israeli occupation authorities' blatant violations of Palestinian human rights, is required to portray this miserable picture as it really is to the American public and to explain the pains suffered by the Palestinians due to the continued Israeli occupation, which is financed and backed politically by the United States.

Prime Minister Affirms Economy on 'Right Course'

JN0306125590 Amman Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 3 Jun 90

[Text] The prime minister, Mudar Badran, said today that the outcome of the extraordinary Arab summit in Baghdad had underlined the fact that Jordan's security and economic stability would provide protection for pan-Arab security.

Mr. Badran made the remarks at a ceremony held at the Sahab Industrial Estate as part of the kingdom's celebrations of independence day. The ceremony included inauguration of several new factories.

The prime minister said that the Jordanian Government has succeeded to achieve stability in the national currency's exchange rate and build up a foreign currency reserve to cover foreign commitments. He said the government had managed to put the economy on the right course through reducing the deficit and striking a balance between revenues and expenditures.

U.S. Ambassador Summoned Over UN Veto

JN0206161190 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1600 GMT 2 Jun 90

[Text] An official source in Amman has stated that the Jordanian Foreign Ministry summoned U.S. Ambassador Roscoe Suddarth today and informed him of Amman's position on the U.S. veto against a draft resolution to dispatch a UN Security Council fact-finding mission to occupied Palestinian territory, a veto that Jordan believes will have a negative overall effect on conditions in the Middle East.

Informed of Jordanian Reaction

JN0306134590 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 3 Jun 90 p 1

[Text] Amman (J.T.)—Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim Saturday [2 June] informed the American ambassador of Jordan's view that Thursday's [31 May] American veto of a United Nations Security Council resolution calling for the dispatch of a fact-finding mission to the occupied territories had negative impacts on the Middle East, an official source said. The source, quoted by the French news agency (AFP), said al-Qasim called in U.S. Ambassador Roscoe Suddarth to the Foreign Ministry to convey the Jordanian position.

Media Cooperation Agreement Signed With Qatar

JN0706094090 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 6 Jun 90

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' today received Qatari Foreign Minister Mubarak 'Ali al-Khatir. The meeting was attended by Assistant Foreign Minister Yusuf Shakkur. Talks during the meeting centered on the situation in the Arab arena, means to realize Arab solidarity, and issues of mutual interest.

In another development, a media agreement was signed this evening at the Information Ministry between the Syrian Arab Republic and the fraternal State of Qatar. On the Syrian Arab side, the agreement was signed by Information Minister Muhammad Salman, and on the Qatari side by Shaykh Hamad Bin-Suhaym Al Thani, minister of information and education.

The aim of the agreement is to strengthen and develop the various aspects of cooperation between the Information Ministries of the two fraternal countries in all media fields, especially in exchanging news, radio and television programs, and newspapers, and exchanging media experiences and press delegations as well as training cadres to serve the interests of the two fraternal countries and the goals of the Arab nation and pan-Arab causes.

The signing ceremony was attended by a number of ranking officials of the Information Ministries and the Qatari ambassador in Syria.

'Concrete Assistance' to Intifadah Questioned

JN3005214690 Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 23 May 90 p 9

["Behind the News" column by A. 'Ubayd: "Jerusalem and the Terrorism of Israel"]

[Text] Zionist media are talking a great deal now about the city of Jerusalem, linking it with the law passed by the Knesset in 1980 that considers the Arab city as the "capital of Israel". This link contains settlement dimensions in the context of escalating Zionist suppression and massacres against the Palestinian people. The law on the annexation of Jerusalem was the last in a series of measures to swallow up Arab land. These measures were denounced by the United Nations and world opinion. However, Israel has brushed aside all international objections, ignored all UN resolutions on the Palestine question, ignored international rejection of the laws of annexation—such as the Jerusalem law—and insisted on challenging Arab and international will. All this took place while more than one opportunity was wasted by the Arab nation to prove its ability to oppose the enemy and put an end to its recalcitrance through establishing effective Arab solidarity aimed at liberating land, exacting its rights, and reactivating joint Arab action. This action should constitute direct support for the intifadah—which is fighting the Zionist enemy while collusion to liquidate it seems strong and clear. This is not done by Israel alone, but by the enemies of the Arabs who never miss an opportunity to order the Arab nation to surrender to the "power of Israel" and its recalcitrance and arrogance, because it insists on committing its crimes one after another.

Israel committed the crime of burning the al-Aqsa Mosque in Arab Jerusalem. Its government claimed, then, that the perpetrator was an imbecile, and that it had sent him to an insane asylum in Australia. A further crime was committed yesterday against Arab workers who were traveling to their jobs. The Shamir government also claimed that the perpetrator of this crime was a madman. Has Israeli insanity become a new method to prove the weakness of Arab stands?

This week, Israel is celebrating a law on the annexation of Arab Jerusalem. The practical importance of this celebration, however, is in the influx of the Jewish emigrants to Jerusalem, cordoning it off with settlements, and destroying its Arab and Islamic features. Official terrorism against the Palestinian people inside and outside their territories also continues. The Arabs are asked, nonetheless, to denounce terrorism they do not commit, to throw down their arms, and to declare surrender as a continuing policy so that their enemies can not call them terrorists. Those enemies, on the other hand, are doing all they can to link human rights with the emigration of Jews to Palestine. The United States, for example, gives open subsidies averaging $3 billion, in addition to subsidies to settle refugees, subsidies for emergencies, and for what is being done in the context of "star wars."

Arab workers are fighting for their daily bread. They are killed sometimes under the heading of "individual insanity," or under the heading of maintaining order at other times, while aid to Israel guarantees the arrival of Jewish workers emigrating to Israel and finding a job for them. Whoever observes all this will wonder: What concrete assistance have the Arabs provided for the intifadah, which is fighting against a bloody tyranny, Zionist expansion, and the liquidation of the Arabs' principal cause?

Afghanistan

Najibullah on U.S. Policy, Reconciliation

PM0606142690 Paris LE FIGARO in French 5 Jun 90 p 4

[Interview with President Muhammad Najibullah by Remi Favret in Kabul—date not given]

[Text] Kabul—[Favret] Sir, are you not disappointed by the fact that the Washington summit did not lead to a specific political agreement on Afghanistan?

[Najibullah] The information which I have received suggests to me that a compromise has been reached with a view to achieving a solution of regional problems. It is very important that the Soviet and American leaders have announced thier support for the principle of a political solution. But, ultimately, the Afghan question will only be solved by the Afghans themselves.

Perestroyka has established a new climate favorable to peace and this increases our optimism. We took account of that in drawing up our reconciliation policy and our peace proposals. Unfortunately, on the other side, our enemies have no plan to end the war.

[Favret] And yet, the Americans seem to have maintained their precondition for any negotiated settlement—your departure. A few days ago, the State Department spokesman presented you as a man responsible for "large-scale human rights violations" with whom no negotiation could be envisaged.

[Najibullah] It is impossible to put forward a precondition for reconciliation. It is impossible to exclude the country's main political force from the negotiations. It is a question of realism—a realism which the United States must adopt.

With regard to human rights, which are respected on an everyday basis, I would like to ask a question. The weapons of mass destruction, like the missiles and fragmentation bombs which the Anmericans have placed in the resistance's hands, strike civilian targets. Is killing women, old people, and innocent children not a violation of the most fundamental human right? We have a Pashto proverb: "I sweep the snow from my roof and place it on my neighbor's roof."

We want free elections. The Americans cannot have two policies. Why do they accept democracy in Nicaragua and not in Afghanistan? Why did they overthrow and imprison (Panamanian leader) Noriega for drug trafficking when they give sophisticated weapons to hundreds of Noriegas based in Peshawar?

[Favret] Your peace proposals have been rejected by the Peshawar parties. Can you make peace without the seven mujahidin leaders?

[Najibullah] The leaders of those organizations think their interests lie in continuing their drug and arms trafficking, not in peace. But the reconciliation process will isolate them and what they think will no longer be important.

[Favret] For the time being, your reconciliation strategy is aimed primarily at local commanders, the mujahidin who hold the field inside Afghanistan.

[Najibullah] This policy is based on Afghan society's objective realities. Important measures have been taken—the Constitution has been amended in a democratic way, a free press has begun to appear and, after 15 years of suspension, parliament has been able to resume its work following elections. The Geneva agreements have been signed, the Soviet troops have left, and we have made more than 30 peace proposals. Why? Because a military solution is now rejected by the Afghans.

In the preamble to the Constitution, the paragraph asserting the leading role of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan [PDPA] has been removed. In other words, the PDPA has renounced its monopoly of power. The state's control over economic and commercial activities has ended. Judges are now independent of any party and a multiparty system now forms the basis of our political system.

France, a Possible Mediator

[Favret] The PDPA nonetheless still holds the strategic posts in the new government....

[Najibullah] Out of 35 portfolios, 23 have been allocated to "nonparty people," technocrats, and independent experts. That is a step forward. The coalition and reconciliation process will expand further with the expansion of democracy. Free elections are the only solution to the Afghan problem. Respect for the people's decision constitutes the basis and foundation of our policy.

[Favret] Do you think that these reforms are enough to establish your regime's international credibility?

[Najibullah] Yes, despite efforts made by all the Afghan state's opponents, our relations with foreign countries develop constantly. I want this development to continue, foreign interference to end, and the Geneva agreements to be respected. Peace will then be guaranteed.

I do not underestimate the difficulties. But if the Afghans are given the opportunity to eliminate their disagreements by negotiation, they can fully rebuild their country with the international community's help.

[Favret] Do you still want Europe, especially France, to play a more active role?

[Najibullah] Yes. France has the credibility and necessary prestige to play a role in solving the Afghan problem, perhaps even as a mediator, and to bring the Afghans together round a table. The historical and cultural relations between our two countries justify this hope, as do the French leadership's realism and rational spirit.

[Favret] And yet, the French embassy in Kabul has remained closed since the Soviet withdrawal....

[Najibullah] You are frightened of the rockets (he laughed—LE FIGARO editor's note). Come to Afghanistan. Tell the Americans to send no more rockets. Tell them that their credibility falls with each rocket....

PDPA Plenum Agrees To Hold Party Congress

LD0606162290 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 6 Jun 90

[Text] The secretariat of the PDPA [People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan] reports: Today, 6 June 1990, the extraordinary plenum of the cental committee of the PDPA was convened in the city of Kabul. At the beginning of the plenum esteemed Najibullah, general secretary of the PDPA and president of Afghanistan, presented a long report to the plenum on the recent national developments in social and political fields which was approved by the participants.

The Central Committee of the PDPA plenum of the month of Jawza [starting 21 May] unanimously resolved that the second congress of the PDPA will be convened. The plenum also took appropriate measures on the arrangements for electing representatives of party members, and it ended its work in full solidarity.

Mojaddedi Criticizes Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami

BK0406154590 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 4 Jun 90 pp 1, 8

[From Rahimullah Yusufzai]

[Text] Peshawar, June 3—Afghan Interim Government (AIG) President Sebghatullah Mojaddedi has urged the Pakistan Government to initiate steps to stop the "campaign of vilification and acts of terrorism" by Hezb-e Eslami (Hekmatyar) against other Mujahidin parties.

In an interview with THE MUSLIM here Sunday [3 June], he accused the Hezb-e Eslami of pursuing a reckless and dangerous policy which harmed the Mujahidin cause and started unnecessary confrontation between the Afghan people. He wondered why Islamabad had turned a blind eye to terrorist activities on its soil.

Prof. Mojaddedi claimed Mr. Hekmatyar's rise to power in Afghanistan was neither in the interest of Pakistan nor its nascent democracy. He opined that Pakistani officials may be backing Hezb-e Eslami to put pressure on the six AIG component parties as there was no plausible reason why a terrorist organisation should be patronised. He cautioned that such a biased policy of favouring a particular party would create more problems than it could solve.

Saying that he has a valid complaint against Pakistan Government, the AIG President listed a number of incidents which he claimed were engineered by Hezb-e Eslami and asked why the culprits had not been nabbed. He charged Hezb-e Eslami with sponsoring the bloody incidents in Barakai Camp in Swabi and the attack on Shelter Now International facility in Nasir Bagh refugees camp. He alleged that trained Hezb-e Eslami terrorists were behind the attacks on rival Mujahidin activists, Afghan intellectuals and women. He lamented that the best Mujahidin commanders had been killed in Pakistan after having survived years of fighting. But none of the killers could be apprehended.

Prof. Mojaddedi denied that he or Maulvi Mohammad Nabi Mohammadi had recently met ex-King Zahir Shah in Rome. He however stressed that meeting Zahir Shah was no sin as the former monarch was an Afghan and had every right to serve his country. "I will meet Zahir Shah 100 times if it is in Afghanistan's interest but I am surprised at the criticism by those who have joined hands with a confirmed communist like Shahnawaz Tanay," remarked the AIG President.

Commenting on the Bush-Gorbachev summit meeting, Prof. Mojaddedi said the Afghans would welcome decisions concerning Afghanistan if these were in their interest. Otherwise, he said the Afghan people would reject any superpower deal and oppose the United States in the same manner in which they had confronted the Soviet Union.

Dismissing the claim that the Afghan Johad [holy war] was now over, the AIG President referred to fighting in Khowst, Gardeyz, Lowgar, Paghman, Kuh-e-Safi Qandahar and in parts of northern Afghanistan in support of his assertion that the Mujahidin were still applying pressure on the Kabul regime. He informed that 15 Turkman families had reached Peshawar a few days ago from northern Afghanistan due to the regime's bombing. He refuted the allegation that Mujahidin were firing rockets at Kabul city and instead blamed the regime for rocketing civilian areas in a bid to malign the resistance. He stressed that Mujahidin were firing rockets only at military targets.

Talking about the AIG election plan, Prof. Mojaddedi hoped it would be implemented by July or early August. He said that the six AIG component parties had been asked to nominate their men for each province of Afghanistan to supervise the polls. Arguing that elections everywhere in the world are boycotted by one or another group, he said AIG had decided to go ahead with its election plans in spite of opposition by Hezb-e Eslami (Hekmatyar) and certain smaller parties.

Hekmatyar Group Criticizes UN Coordinator, U.S.

BK0606113290 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 6 Jun 90 p 6

[Text] Peshawar, June 5—Hezb-e Eslami-e Afghanistan [HEA] (Hekmatyar) has accused the United Nations Coordinator, Prince Sadruddin Agha Khan of realising the U.S. designs against Afghanistan under the guise of humanitarian assistance.

A communique of HEA released by AFGHAN NEWS AGENCY (ANA) alleged that the U.S. Government was trying its best to crush the Islamic movements around the world as they were well aware of the fact that Islam was the only force which stood before their nefarious designs.

Since the Afghan Muslim nation by its chivalrous struggle has taught a lesson of freedom and liberty to the subjugated nations of the world, it has incurred the indignation and wrath of the U.S. Government. The policy of the U.S. Government and the CIA towards the Mujahidin is the one designed to weaken and divide the Mujahidin through their slanderous propaganda, bolstering of their agents and so many other shameless interferences which also expose the anti-Islamic character of the U.S. Government, the communique added.

It further said that the Mujahidin will foil this conspiracy and prevent the entry of such assistance into Afghanistan. The consequences of the dispatch of such assistance through unprincipled methods will squarely lay on the shoulders of the dispatchers.

Khaliqyar Asks Businessmen To Improve Matters

LD0406180690 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 4 Jun 90

[Text] Esteemed Khaliqyar, the prime minister, met today with a number of national businessmen and private enterpreneurs. The BIA [BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY] correspondent reports: In the meeting, attended by Zakim Shah the minister of commerce [title as heard] and the leadership of the Ministry of Commerce and the Commerce Chamber, the esteemed prime minister spoke about the import, purveying, and transport of primary goods of necessity to our people, especially in the central parts of the country. He asked national businessmen and private enterpreneurs to play their correct role in meeting the people's need of consumer goods and food, and to stabilize prices in cities including the city of Kabul. Esteemed Fazl Haq Khaliqyar said: You are the heirs of those compatriot businessmen of ours who walked through mountains in order to meet the needs of the compatriots in cities and towns. Now the people of Afghanistan look to their businessmen brothers to meet the primary necessities of the people, and not allow women, children, and men of the country to face any more the shortage of primary goods and have to line up at bakeries and stores. Esteemed Khaliqyar, in another section of his speech, said: My government will provide you with all possibilities for the fulfilment of your business affairs. We will oust from the trade industry profiteers, opportunists, and those who prefer their profits to the interests of the people. We will also make inquiries into the work of those who abuse their power, creating obstacles in your trade affairs.

Then some businessmen and private enterpreneurs spoke on behalf of each other, and presented problems concerning the Kabul-Torkham highway, the offer of foreign currency through the Afghanistan Bank to national businessmen and private enterpreneurs, and a series of other issues. The esteemed prime minister gave instructions on the removal of their problems to responsible officials; he requested that national businessmen fulfill their duties honestly in the interests of the miserable people of the country.

Security Reports Situation in Provinces 4 June

LD0406164390 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 4 Jun 90

[Text] The units and companies of the Armed Forces stationed in Nangarhar Province have remained in their previous positions and the newly captured trenches. They carry out their duties with combat capability.

Quoting an authoritative source, the BIA [BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY] military section reports that Pakistan's agents have fired heavy weapons sporadically on a number of the security posts of Nangarhar's garrison and residential areas of the city during the last four days.

In retaliation to these criminal actions, the units and companies of the Armed Forces subjected to air and artillery attacks the positions of the enemies of people and peace. As a result, 38 persons from the joint forces of the enemy were ousted from the combat rank during the last four days. Their four vehicles loaded with arms and ammunition, two mortars and four rocket launchers were destroyed.

A number of the units and companies carried out ambush operations in the areas around Kama bridge on 31 May. As a result of which 20 rocket launcher shells, 41 mortar shells, a case of Kalashinkov shells and 60 recoilless gun shells were seized. As a result of fire by the enemy, two personnel of the units and companies and two civilians were martyred and five local people were injured. And [number indistinct] shops were destroyed.

The source adds that the units and companies of the Armed Forces in Paktia Province are stationed in their previous positions, and enjoy high combat readiness in order to foil any type of possible attack by the armed extremists, Pakistani militarists and Saudi mercenaries.

The warmongers attached to Pakistan have fired heavy weapons sporadically during the last four days on some areas of Gardez city, on the regions of Esmael Khel, Yaqubi, Tanai, Gorbez, and Tor Ghara and on front line of the units and companies. In retaliation to these attacks, their positions and resistance places were subjected to air and artillery attacks. As a result, 41 Pakistan's agents were ousted from the combat rank during the last four days. Two enemy recoilless guns, four Dashks, and two rocket launchers were destroyed. As a result of their fire, a member of the units and companies and a child were martyred and three members of Armed Forces were injured.

According to the same source, Saudi mercenaries, armed extremists, and Pakistani militarists have fired heavy weapons during the last four days on a number of security posts located around Qandahar city and Kalat city and on the positions of the units and companies in (?Makan) and Tor Kotal. As a result, a member of the units and companies were martyred and five others were injured. In response to these terroristic actions retaliatory attacks were carried out on the firing points of the agents of Pakistan. As a result, 51 warmongers were ousted from combat ranks during the last four days. Their 11 vehicles loaded with arms and ammunition, 13 mortars, four systems for launching reactive [rocket projectiles], two ammunition depots, and four blindazh [shelters or armored vehicles] were destroyed.

10 Kabul Citizens Killed in 5 June Missile Attack

LD0506162390 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 5 Jun 90

[Text] As a result of the impact of 25 surface-to-surface U.S.- made missiles, today 10 Kabul citizens, including women and children, were martyred and a number were wounded. The BIA [BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY] military section reported that the wounded were transferred to hospital and are under intensive care.

These missiles which are of the SAKR and cluster type, were fired from north-west and west directions. They inflicted material damage to residential areas in the fifth, sixth, seventh, eighth, ninth and tenth city wards. The mines scattered by the missiles were neutralized by the security forces.

State Security Captures Three Rockets Near Kabul

LD0506163590 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 5 Jun 90

[Text] State Security officials discovered and captured three U.S. [as heard] SAKR ground-to-ground rockets in the Dehsabz area. The military section of BIA [BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY] reports that the rockets were deployed in the area to be fired at residential areas of Kabul. They were captured and removed with the cooperation of the local people.

India

Troop Withdrawal From Border Reaffirmed

BK0706032090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 7 Jun 90

[Text] The Indian High Commission in Islamabad has strongly refuted reports appearing in a section of the Pakistani press describing as spurious India's claims of withdrawal of some of its armored formations from the India-Pakistan border. In a press release, the High Commission has also categorically denied reports alleging the evacuation of villages and discrimination against Muslims in the border states.

The High Commission has stated that the withdrawal of armored formations from the India-Pakistan border began the same day when India presented to Pakistan its package of confidence-building measures to ease the tension between the two countries.

Our Islamabad correspondent Suresh Chopra reports that the Indian package of confidence-building measures has been well received in diplomatic circles in Islamabad and the hope has been expressed that Pakistan will respond positively top them.

Gujral Worried at Pakistani Plane Modification

BK0406132590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 4 Jun 90

[Text] The external affairs minister, Mr. I.K. Gujral, has said India wants normal relations with Pakistan. But that is not possible at present because of Islamabad's continued support to terrorism. In an interview with a news agency in Kuala Lumpur today, Mr. Gujral emphasized that subversion in India by Pakistan has not only been reported by independent sources but also confessed to by Islamabad. When asked if the war clouds over India and Pakistan had receded, Mr. Gujral said the latest news about Pakistan modifying its aircraft to carry nuclear weapons is worrisome. The minister said Pakistan had moved its troops to the Indian border. And because of the tense situation, India was doing all it could to avoid a flare-up. India had unilaterally withdrawn its troops from forward positions in south Punjab. The gesture, said the minister, was aimed at building up confidence and to underscore India's commitment to peace.

Egypt's Ghali Supports Indian Efforts on Kashmir

BK0406161590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 4 Jun 90

[Text] The Egyptian minister of state for foreign affairs, Mr. Butrus Ghali, called on the external affairs minister, Mr. Gujral, today. He told Mr. Gujral that Egypt is against Pakistan's efforts to raise the Kashmir issue at the forthcoming meeting of the organization of Islamic states in Cairo. Mr. Ghali assured his country's support to India's efforts in defusing the tension with Pakistan.

Commentary Asks Bhutto To Adhere to Simla Accord

BK3005110590 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 30 May 90

[Ashoke Sharma commentary]

[Text] Until a year ago, Pakistani statements emphasized the need for solving the Kashmir question in accordance with the Simla agreement of 1972. But now, they insist on a solution in accordance with UN resolutions. The Simla agreement is also mentioned, but primacy is given to UN resolutions to demand a plebiscite in Kashmir. Pakistan adopted a two-pronged strategy as it played the game of brinkmanship with India. It made serious attempts to internationalize the Kashmir issue and side

by side stepped up support for subversion and terrorism in Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir to cause uprisings in the border states.

The Pakistan prime minister, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, returned from a tour of half a dozen West Asian countries with the results hardly flattering for her policy on the Kashmir issue. Pakistan had earlier failed to muster a two-third support in the United Nations Security Council on the issue. The just-concluded Arab Summit in Baghdad did not even include the Kashmir issue on its agenda. Pakistan is making a determined bid to get a resolution on the issue passed by the twice postponed Organization of Islamic Foreign Ministers Meeting scheduled to be held in Cairo in June.

Apparently, obsessed with its policy of internationalizing the Kashmir issue, the Pakistan foreign minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, suggested to the Indian external affairs minister, Mr. Inder Kumar Gujral, in New York in April that the two countries invite the United Nations or an outside agency to confirm the factual situation on the ground regarding India's charge of Islamabad's support to terrorism and subversion in the valley, and to provide a neutral surveillance mechanism. India rejected the Pakistani suggestion and reminded Sahabzada Yaqub Khan that both countries had consciously agreed on the irrelevance and redundancy of third party involvement in bilateral relations which was settled by the Simla agreement long ago. The external affairs minister stressed that no international agency could effectively monitor clandestine assistance to terrorists. There was no alternative to Pakistan taking appropriate and credible measures to create confidence and demonstrate its seriousness about improving relations with India.

The 1972 Simla agreement was (?fathered) for Pakistan by the late Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto whose earlier talk of a 1,000-year war over Kashmir, which was settled in Simla, has now again been picked up by his daughter Benazir. The late Mr. Bhutto realized the futility of belligerent and inflammatory rhetoric after the 1971 war which saw the breakup of Pakistan and surrender by over 90,000 troops to India. While affixing their signatures to the Simla agreement, leaders of India and Pakistan decided to put an end to the conflict and confrontation that marred their relations. A key clause in the accord bound the two countries to settle their differences by peaceful means through bilateral negotiations or by any other peaceful means mutually agreed upon between them. They also resolved that pending the final settlement of any of the problems between the two countries, neither side shall unilaterally alter the situation and both shall prevent the organization, assistance or encouragement of any acts detrimental to the maintenance of peaceful and harmonious relations.

The Simla agreement stood the test of time and both countries restored communications—postal, telegraphic, sea, land, including border posts—and air links, including overflights after the 1971 war. The process of normalization moved swiftly during late Bhutto's rule. His daughter, Ms. Bhutto, committed herself to the Simla Agreement after assuming office in December 1988. Heading a minority government, Ms. Bhutto is unable to stick to her avowed position on various issues. The civil war-like situation in Sindh Province has further compounded the problems for her government which does not know where it stands.

Parties Oppose Idea of 'National Government'

BK0606161190 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 6 Jun 90

[Text] Several political parties have disagreed with the idea of having a national government at the center. Reacting to the prime minister's remarks made yesterday during his talk with newsmen on his way back home from Kuala Lumpur, the CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] leader, Mr. Harkishan Singh Surjeet, said this would go against the very spirit of the people's verdict given in the last general elections. In a statement, he, however, said there could be a consensus on several national issues before the country, such as Kashmir and Punjab, and center-state relations.

The CPI leader, Mr. Farooqi, said there cannot be a consensus on the formation of a national government. The All India Forward Bloc general secretary, Mr. Chittabasu, welcomed the views of the prime minister but expressed his doubts whether there could be a national government with what he called communal parties.

The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] president, Mr. L.K.Advani, also did not approve of the idea and rejected it as a political gambit.

The Congress-I general secretary, Mr. V.N. Gadgil, said that his party rejects the idea as of today. He described it as an admission by the government of its failure.

The Janata Dal leader, Mr. Chandrashekhar, said that talk of a national government appeared to him as just a slogan and not even an academic exercise.

CPI-M Reiterates Support to Present Government

BK0206162890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 2 Jun 90

[Text] The CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] General Secretary, Mr. E.M.S. Namboodripad, has categorically stated that his party will continue to support the National Front government. Answering questions by newsmen in New Delhi today, he said those trying to destabilize the government want either to bring back the Congress-I to power or to create chaos in the country. His party will not support any such move.

Mr. Namboodripad also released a communique issued at the end of a four-day meeting of the Central Committee of his party. The communique accused the Congress-I of maneuvering to destabilize the National Front government.

Referring to Kashmir, the communique expressed concern over the situation in that state as also in Punjab and Assam. It urged the government to take firm administrative measures and to urgently restore peace in the valley.

Gujral on Ties With ASEAN, Gulf Countries

BK0506162890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 5 Jun 90

[Text] The external affairs minister, Mr. I.K.Gujral, has said that bilateral talks with Malaysia have been quite rewarding and opened a new window toward the Association of Southeast Asian Nations—ASEAN.

Talking to newsmen on board the prime minister's special aircraft on its return journey from Kuala Lumpur this morning, Mr. Gujral said he will visit Iraq from the 18th of this month as part of his government's strategy to further strengthen the ties with Gulf countries. From Iraq, he would be going to the Federal Republic of Germany for bilateral talks. He also said that he would meet the Indian envoys based in Western Europe and have discussions with them regarding the recent developments.

Referring to the national government's policy, Mr. Gujral said improvement of ties with the neighboring countries has been given the first priority. Relations with ASEAN countries and Gulf countries will also be improved.

Deputy Premier's Son Resigns Haryana Seat

BK0406161990 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 4 Jun 90

[Text] In Haryana, Mr. Ranjit Singh, a Janata Dal legislator and younger son of the deputy prime minister, Mr. Devi Lal, has resigned from his Rori assembly seat. The state assembly speaker, Mr. H.S. Chata, told newsmen in Chandigarh today that he has accepted the resignation. With the acceptance of the resignation of Mr. Ranjit Singh, the strength of the Janata Dal has come down to 48 in a house of 90.

Twelve Killed in Punjab Blasts, Violence

BK0406132490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 4 Jun 90

[Text] In Punjab, five persons, including three children, have been killed and about 30 persons injured in two powerful bomb blasts in Patiala town this afternoon. According to an official spokesman, the first blast took place in Arya Samaj Chowk area at about 1215 and the second 15 minutes later in Sherawala Gate area. The injured were immediately rushed to the local hospital and the security forces have cordoned off the areas. Elsewhere in the state, seven persons, including four terrorists, have been killed in separate incidents of terrorist activity since last night.

Six 'Terrorists' Killed in Punjab; Blast Kills 1

BK0606125890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 6 Jun 90

[Text] In Chandigarh, one person was killed and three seriously injured in a powerful bomb blast in a public sector hotel this afternoon. The blast took place in the fourth floor of the hotel. Further details are awaited.

In Punjab, six terrorists were killed in separate incidents and the security forces have made a big haul of arms and ammunition since last night. This was stated by the state police chief, Mr. K.P.S. Gill, in Chandigarh today.

Security Steps Taken for 7 Jun Punjab Strike Call

BK0606161390 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 6 Jun 90

[Text] The Punjab government has made elaborate security arrangements in view of the bundh [strike] call for tomorrow given by some factions of Akali Dal, All India Sikh Students Federation, and some militant organizations. The state police chief, Mr. Gill, said in Chandigarh today that the security forces all over the state have been mobilized to meet any eventuality.

Meanwhile, two more terrorists and two policemen have been killed in separate incidents in the state.

In Batala, 13 people were injured in a powerful bomb blast this morning. In Patiala also, a powerful bomb exploded at a police chowki [post]. However, no one was injured in this explosion.

In Chandigarh, one person was killed and three seriously injured in a powerful bomb blast in the public sector Shivalik View Hotel this afternoon. The blast took place on the fourth floor of the hotel. The one killed was an employee of the hotel.

Unofficial Burmese Election Results Welcomed

BK2905125590 Delhi External Service in Burmese 1130 GMT 29 May 89

[From the "Current Burmese Affairs" program by U Maw Thiri of the Burmese language service]

[Text] Dear All India Radio [AIR] listeners from Myanmar [Burma]. We are very encouraged, satisfied, ebullient, and happy over the news that we get from Myanmar. The party led by Daw Aung San Suu Kyi is expected to win two-thirds of the seats, according to unofficial sources. We would like to tell you, listeners, right now how happy and how satisfied we are with this news. It is not very easy to hide our happiness. But we plan to wait at least until the final results come in before we salute you, the voters.

We have said many times before the elections that you, the voters, alone can write the new history of Myanmar, that you alone can make the democratic process a success, that you are the genuine saviours of the country.

But, while extending our salutations to you, we still wish to sing praises and laud you for the correct decision that you have made.

Hence when the full results of the elections are known or when the state power is handed over to Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's party according to what General Saw Maung said the other day that he would transfer the power to the winning party and return to the barracks, we would like to repeat our salutations to those patriots who worked for democracy and freedom.

General Saw Maung has said that he would hand over the power to the victorious party and return to the barracks to continue the task of defending and safeguarding the nation. It has been said that the victorious party will have the right to draft the constitution as it deems appropriate.

Any well-meaning patriot who loves and is loyal to the country should think and act in such a way. General Saw Maung's intentions will be fervently welcomed by the people.

According to the latest reports, opposition parties won 75 percent of the people's support throughout the country and the National Unity Party, the former Burma Socialist Program Party, won some 10 to 15 percent of the votes. Unofficial reports say candidates from Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's party—the NLD—have already won more than 240 seats in the 485-seat Parliament and that they could now claim victory and form a government.

The Myanmar people do not want a military government and have therefore called for multiparty democratic general elections. Since the people have now unanimously expressed their wish by supporting Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's party, it would be necessary for the other parties to do their very best in supporting that party.

The other parties should join hands with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's NLD in engaging in the national construction tasks. In the same way as it is essential to have great foresight in drafting plans to correct the wrongs that took place over the past 27 years, it is also very important to be broad-minded.

Dear Senior General Saw Maung:

By now, you all may already know the actual result of the elections. Please take all your time to do whatever work that is required, but first, please give priority to undertaking the immediate release of all political and student leaders detained, to declare an amnesty for the students abroad who are engaging in an armed struggle and others who have become refugees, to recognize them as the heroes of the struggle for freedom and democracy and to welcome them back, and to re-employ and restore the benefits of the diplomatic staff members who were penalized because of their involvement in the democratic movement.

If you, General Saw Maung, personally undertake these tasks even before you return to the barracks, the existing problems will be resolved. The Defense Services have held elections, and the results that we hear today are proof that they were held in a fair and free manner.

The Upper House in India today unanimously welcomed the victory of the democratic forces in the Myanmar elections. We have to inform all you listeners—the heroes of democracy—that the spokesmen for different political parties expressed their profound satisfaction with the people's rejection of the military-backed parties.

Iran

President Interviewed on Hostages, Other Issues

LD0606121790 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 6 Jun 90

[Text] In a press, radio, and television interview today, Hashemi-Rafsanjani, president of the Republic, replied to questions from domestic and foreign correspondents on the exchange of letters between Iran and Iraq, the hostages problem in Lebanon, the irresponsible U.S. stance against humanitarian groups in Lebanon, Iran's terms for restoring ties with England and Arabia, the influx of Jews into the occupied territories, making the economy sound, harnessing inflation, as well as other regional and world issues.

The president began by thanking our country's people and other countries' Muslims for their massive presence on the first anniversary of Imam Khomeyni's demise, may he be admitted to God's paradise.

Then, replying to a question on the Iraq's dispatch of two letters and Iran's response to them, the president said: Iraq has proposed the two countries hold independent talks to resolve the existing differences. The Iraqi proposals, meanwhile, include talks between the two countries' presidents. In our opinion, holding such a meeting will depend on expert level negotiations supervised by the UN secretary general—expert talks ensuring the success of such a meeting.

As to the resolution issued at the end of the Arab summit in Baghdad, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: We inferred from the Iraqi letters that the said government has arrived at a serious decision on restoring peace. The unprincipled stance of the Arab heads of state in Baghdad, however, places a question mark on whether Iraq is serious in reaching lasting peace.

On Western media insinuations that Iran needs the West to engage in economic reconstruction, and therefore is forced to abandon the imam's principled stances, may he be admitted to God's paradise, the president said: Westerners are mistaken in thinking Iran badly needs them. Iran never will forsake the aspirations and the principles his eminence the imam laid down because of its needs. Iran is not in need of any foreign country. Needs as a general rule are reciprocal. International relations are based on such reciprocal needs.

On using foreign aid, the president said: We are ready to forgo everything to achieve our aspirations. Regarding government measures to harness inflation, he said: The main reason for inflation and goods shortages is an abundance of liquidity. Now, based on previously declared policies, the government has reduced liquidity through distributing foreign exchange at competetive rates among the production units and for the import of goods. By increasing production, the government will bring down the prices of goods. At present, the country's level of production is on an upward trend. In the case of some goods that trend's impact can be seen, while in some other cases, the positive impact will be seen within the next three to four months.

Stressing the fact that during the past few months the government has succeeded in mopping up 2 trillion rials of existing liquidity, the president reiterated: According to available statistics the rise in inflation has been harnessed and the price of goods has declined 20-60 percent. Inflation also has fallen from 28 percent to less than 20 percent.

On Iran's use of International Monetary Fund [IMF] assistance, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: In the past, such assistance was used; now there is no need to receive such assistance. But if the need arises, regarding Iran's quota at the IMF, the Fund is one of the best centers from which such help can be received.

Replying to a correspondent's question on the trend toward releasing Western hostages in Lebanon, the president said: The Lebanese groups showed their goodwill by unconditionally releasing two American hostages. Our principled policy, according to the exalted leader's views, is to help the release of all hostages in Lebanon, whether they are Westerners or Muslims in Israeli prisons. America's irresponsible approach to the case, however, has brought the hostage releasing trend to a halt.

Regarding the Iranian pilgrimage to Mecca and the restoration of relations with Saudi Arabia, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: In our view, pressured by America, the Saudis prevented the pilgrims from going. That is because they are frightened of the Iranian pilgrims' cultural impact. This year there is no more time for Iranian pilgrims to go. We believe, however, that the Arabian authorities will be pressured by world Muslim public opinion and will agree to Iranian pilgrims performing hajj duties.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani considered the meeting between the Iranian president and Gorbachev as the starting point for the transformation for both countries [as heard]. He added: About two months ago gas exports to the Soviet Union began, with a daily capacity of 6 million cubic meters. Some projects on which we have reached agreement, such as construction of two dams on the Aras River, as well as increasing the production capacity of Esfahan's steel mill, currently are being implemented. Furthermore, our political, cultural, military, and border ties with the Soviet Union are expanding. We are very interested in cooperation with Tajikistan and other Muslim-inhabited republics, and we welcome any opening in that connection. We have made considerable progress in that regard during the last few months, evidence of which is the presence of a Soviet Tajikistan delegation in Iran.

The president viewed relations between Iran and Canada as at ambassadorial level. Then he pointed to Egypt's treason against the world of Islam, and said: Through signing Camp David, Egypt committed a great act of treason against the Islamic world, against Palestinian aspirations, and against the Arabs. That treason caused many of Arab countries to be removed from the arena of struggle against Israel. Hashemi-Rafsanjani pointed to the absence of tension between Iraq and Israel, and added: Iran is at the vanguard of all countries against which Israel and its patrons bear a grudge. At the next level, Syria, as the Islamic world's castle, has stood up against Israel.

The president praised the freedoms granted to Soviet people, in particular that country's Muslims. He said: Right now, for the first time since Russia's Marxist revolution, the world's Muslims feel safe. We welcome this and hope such a process may continue.

Referring to British Prime Minister Thatcher's remarks regarding renewing ties with Iran, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: In principle, we have no problems with normalizing ties with England. Both we and England want this. The reality, however, is that following England's wrong stance vis-a-vis The Satanic Verses book, the Islamic Majles ratified a plan [tarh] according to which when England is prepared to implement that law [qanun], there will be no obstacles on the path of establishing ties. [sentence as heard] We have told the Foreign Ministry the moment that law [qanun], which has been ratified in the parliament [Majles] is implemented, it should reestablish relations. [passage as heard] In that connection, the English Government must condemn the insults made against Islam in The Satanic Verses, and pay respect to Muslim sanctities. Therefore, if England stops its stubborn-headness and fanaticism regarding insults against Islam, relations soon could be established.

Replying to another reporter's question on Soviet Jewish immigration to the occupied territories for creating a Greater Israel, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: The struggle to regain Palestinian rights is one of the Islamic revolution's objectives, and this remains valid. We totally understand the danger of Jewish immigration to the occupied territories, which has taken place under American pressure. We have a suitable plan to confront that conspiracy, a plan we will implement when the right time comes. We believe Israel is a cancer within Islamic world's body, and the idea of creating a Greater Israel is a redundant one which will not materialize when the Islamic revolution is shining so brightly. We predict that

in the not so distant future, the Palestinian people will return to their original homeland.

Replying to a question on Israel possibily attacking Iraq, the president said: We do not think there is any serious enmity between Iraq and Israel. In our opinion, the most serious enemies of Israel are first, Iran, then Syria.

In conclusion, Hashemi-Rafsanjani stressed that conflicts between Iraq and Israel merely are political and propaganda moves. He added: We clearly declare the Islamic Republic of Iran will support and assist any country—be it Arab, Islamic, or other—which gets involved in a war against Israel.

Paper Reiterates Readiness for Summit With Iraq

NC0706085690 Paris AFP in English 0845 GMT 7 Jun 90

[Text] Tehran, June 7 (AFP)—Iran Thursday [7 June] reiterated its readiness for a peace summit with Iraq despite an "irresponsible and unrealistic" statement by Arab leaders asserting Baghdad's sovereignty over a disputed Gulf waterway.

"In spite of recent rash moves by Baghdad and its Arab supporters, Iran has not yet closed the door on direct talks with Iraq and a summit meet between the two governments is still possible," the TEHRAN TIMES newspaper said.

The editorial in the English-language daily, considered a mouthpiece for President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, came a day after Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani said he was ready to discuss a peace settlement with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn. Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, speaking at a press conference, stipulated that such a meeting would have to be prepared by experts from both sides and held in consultation with UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar. In recent letters to Iran, Iraq proposed a summit held outside the framework of the United Nations, which secured a ceasefire in the eight-year Gulf war in August 1988 but which has failed to resolve differences on a lasting settlement.

The TEHRAN TIMES reiterated Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani's criticism of a final resolution at an Arab summit last week in Baghdad which backed Iraqi sovereignty over the disputed Shatt al-'Arab waterway.

"The Baghdad summit's approach and attitude had very adversely affected the peace talks process," the paper said, describing the Arab statement as a "very irresponsible and unrealistic approach". Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, it said, "was trying to avoid closing the door on Iraq for direct talks and even a meeting between the two heads of states. As such it is not still too late for Iraq to display genuine interest and goodwill in achieving a lasting peace with the Islamic republic."

Mr. Perez de Cuellar earlier this year proposed a new lengthy round of direct Iran-Iraq talks at foreign-minister level, in a city chosen by the two sides. But no progress has been made on the initiative.

Iran and Iraq differ on how a settlement should proceed. Tehran wants Iraqi forces to withdraw from occupied Iranian territory, while Baghdad's priority is the exchange of prisoners of war and freedom of navigation in the Gulf.

Nurbakhsh Denies Plan To Devalue Currency

LD0606185790 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 6 Jun 90

[Text] Mr. Nurbakhsh, the minister of economic affairs and finance, in an interview with local and foreign reporters today, explained the country's economic and monetary policies and answered their questions. Our correspondent reports on that:

[Unidentified correspondent] The minister of economic affairs and finance today strongly denied any [planned] official action to devalue the Iranian rial or to change the country's currency from rials to another currency.

Mr. Mohsen Nurbakhsh, the minister of economic affairs and finance, today in reply to questions by foreign correspondents about the possible devaluation of the rial to one-fifth of its current value said:

[Begin Nurbakhsh recording] I strongly deny any official change in monetary policy. What we have decided and has been implemented is the introduction of a parallel competitive rate utilized in case of certain imported raw materials, the related goods of which have been specified. As I mentioned we are not planning to make any changes in the official value of the country's money at all, and we do not think in present conditions that there is a need to adopt such a policy. [end recording]

[Correspondent] Mr. Nurbakhsh also termed as a joke the idea of changing the country's currency from the rial to another currency unit called the nur. On the implementation of a policy to control the currency value, he said: The preliminary part of the government's plan to organizing the currency market has been implemented, and other complementary plans to control the currency value will be announced and implemented.

The minister of economic affairs and finance termed the visit by an IMF delegation to Iran as an ordinary visit in the framework of the Fund's duties to make a report on the economic situation in Iran as a member of the Fund. On the possibility of using IMF financial resources, he said that the Islamic Republic of Iran's approved five-year plan allows the possibility of using appropriate foreign sources for specified projects, but because of the nature of those projects and the kind of IMF facilities, using the Fund's resources is not within the framework

of the appropriate sources. At the same time he mentioned that the World Bank facilities are more appropriate for Iranian development projects. Officials of the World bank have also shown interest in that regard and the final result of it will become clear in the future.

On the creation of joint Iranian and foreign companies, Mr. Nurbakhsh said: The country's present laws allow the creation of joint companies. He said: Iran's foreign debt is around $200 to $300 million. He added that this debt includes loans received before the revolution, the instalment time of which is yet to come, and that the instalments will be paid when the time comes.

On government plans to change the country's economic structure and to establish an equilibrium, Mr. Nurbakhsh said: The government has implemented two programs, one regarding an increase in production through the provision of facilities for production of raw materials and moderating prices, and the other is for reducing inflation through a reduction in the budget deficit and a reduction in printing banknotes. Alongside that the plans to support the strata of people with low income through paying for a part of basic goods used by the public and paying other special subsidies to people with lower incomes will continue. He added: Through implementation of the government's economic policies the country's budget deficit was reduced to half and printing banknotes was reduced to a third of its level in the year 1367 [21 March 1988-20 March 1989].

Musavian Cited on British-Iranian Relations

LD0506202590 (Clandestine) Radio of the Iranian Toilers in Persian 0230 GMT 5 Jun 90

[Excerpts] Dear listeners! In a new endeavor aimed at renewing ties between the Islamic Republic and England Hoseyn Musavian—one of the Foreign Ministry's officials—in an interview with a British newspaper, implicitly said that if in the parliament the English foreign secretary condemns insults against Islam and Muslims, then establishing ties between the two countries will be made easier. From his remarks, one can easily conclude that the Islamic Republic is prepared to reciprocate such action by not bringing the issue of Salman Rushdie into the framework of the bilateral relations. [passage omitted]

Thatcher and her foreign secretary immediately made a positive response to Musavian's remarks. Thatcher said Britain views Islam with respect. Her foreign secretary, in turn, talked about his (?reverence) toward Islam, and his reluctance to confront it [as heard]. He also stressed that it was the Islamic Republic who severed its ties with Britain, and now it has initiated efforts aimed at establishing ties. Musavian's remarks and the reaction of the English officials show that both the English Government and (?influential) forces in the Islamic Republic have reached the conclusion the Salman Rushdie affair must be resolved to pave the way for normalization of diplomatic ties between the two countries.

The most important aspect in Musavian's remarks is this point that the government has not officially confirmed the decree on killing Salman Rushdie. This point is the repeat of Hashemi-Rafsanjani's words a few months ago, who said: Khomeyni's decree is the opinion of specialist, and any source of religious emulation can pose such opinions. Despite the fact that Khamene'i immediately reacted by considering Khomeyni's decree as the opinion of the Islamic Republic state, at that time Hashemi-Rafsanjani by posing the issue from that angle, tried to question the binding nature of the decree as far as the government was concerned. In that time, also, Hashemi-Rafsanjani's efforts encountered stiff opposition from certain camps with the ruling elite, who considered the execution of the said decree in their interest. Therefore that effort did not bear fruit.

Right now, Musavian's remarks show that after the passage of a few months, Hashemi-Rafsanjani is now intending to start new efforts aimed at getting rid of Khomeyni's decree. Hashemi-Rafsanjani's proposals on renewing ties with England—given the fact that recently his political rivals have been stressing on continuation of the so-called path of the imam, thereby waging a confrontation against him—indicates Hashemi-Rafsanjani's desperation in resolving the country's severe economic problems. It is now clear that despite all the propaganda by Hashemi-Rafsanjani's government, that government has failed in its attempts to remedy economic problems. One of the signs of that failure is the increase in rate of dollar exchange in the black market [words indistinct]. One of the reasons behind such a failure was the western government's reluctance in providing Iran with the massive loans that Hashemi-Rafsanjani requires. For that reason Hashemi-Rafsanjani has been forced to start new moves aimed at obtaining foreign loans. The proposal on establishing ties with England is one example of such moves.

If Hashemi-Rafsanjani succeeds in moving the Salman Rushdie affairs out of the way and thereby reach an agreement with Thatcher government—since that government has (?influence) in the EEC and world's loan-giving organizations [as heard]—Then [words indistinct] and some financial resources will be left at the regime's disposal.

The essence of Thatcher's conciliatory remarks shows the British Government is ready to compromise with the Islamic regime in certain aspects. Right now, one can ask this question that whether Hashemi-Rafsanjani's rivals and the Hezbollah adherents will allow Hashemi-Rafsanjani to cancel Khomeyni's decree or at least relegate it to a specialist opinion expressed by a religious source of emulation. All evidence shows that the radical [tond-ro] faction will seriously oppose such a move. Within the last few days, both Ahmad Khomeyni and Karrubi in separate remarks have stressed on this issue and on the necessity for implementation of Khomeyni's guidelines and doctrines. [passage omitted]

The Salman Rushdie affair has once again shown that as far as Hashemi-Rafsanjani is concerned the main issue is to keep the present government in power, and not the implementation of Khomeyni's decrees. This is while the Hezbollah adherents consider obedience to the so-called Khomeyni path as a matter overruling the importance of the government's stability. This is one of the pivotal issues for dispute among various camps of the ruling elite at present, an issue, which has revealed itself once again, within the Salman Rushdie affair.

Editorial States Conditions for Ties With UK

NC0206180990 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 14 May 90 p 11

[Editorial: "The Dreams of the British Government"]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful.

The British mass media are making immense efforts to resolve their own problems by capitalizing on the prestige of others. However, the impression they give more closely reflects the disillusioned sentiments of an unsuccessful government than a stance which would be acceptable to others. [passage omitted]

The fact that the British present their own desires and aspirations under the name of the "European Economic Community" is an indication of the contempt that they have for the Islamic Republic of Iran. It confirms the fact that they are not fit to resolve their problems singlehandedly and are forced to seek the succor of others for their own salvation.

Great Britain wishes to project itself as the spokesman and the sole decision-maker in the EC and impose its own desires for the resolution of its problems with Iran on others. It is for this reason that it speaks on behalf of all the others, even though the EC has not delegated any such right to the London government.

Great Britain wishes to draw the EC into the fold of its contemptuous stance and to bring it into line with its own views, even though the EC has once before tasted the bitter results of this policy in the Salman Rushdie incident. In those days, the EC chose to take a separate path from that of Great Britain, as it saw no future in continuing the deviant and erroneous course which London wanted to drag it into. [passage omitted]

As regards ties with the Islamic Republic of Iran, it is not to the benefit of the British Government to insist on its ignorant and unprincipled stance to this extent and to continue along its erroneous path. Logic and reasoning dictate that the British should come to their senses and should realize that they are up against a nation and revolution in Iran which is not ready to tolerate the slightest insult to its sanctities.

The path to resolving the Rushdie issue is clear. It was not to the benefit of the British Government that it should persist in its malice on this issue and continue its former incorrect policy. If the British apologize to the Muslim world, pledge never to repeat such a shameless act of audacity, and hand Rushdie over to the Muslims for the implementation of the shari'ah decree, that issue will easily be resolved. [passage omitted]

In its reportage on the Dublin session the London TIMES indicated that Iran and Great Britain are moving toward a meeting on the issues of the hostages in Lebanon, Rushdie, and Roger Cooper. Regarding the first two our stance has been stated. Regarding the veteran British spy Roger Cooper, who has himself admitted to his espionage activities, it should be pointed out that this spy should have received his retribution at the time.

The Cooper incident is a blot of shame for the British. A government has to be extremely low to make the release of a spy one of the topics on its agenda for negotiations. This should only be answered by handing over the lifeless body of Cooper.

Majles Speaker Karrubi Eulogizes Khomeyni

LD0506194290 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0930 GMT 5 Jun 90

[Speech by Majles Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Mehdi Karrubi at ceremonies marking the death anniversary of Ayatollah Khomeyni; date, place not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [crowd sounds in background] In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful. [passage omitted] Peace and blessings be upon the blessed and sacred spirit of our everlasting imam. Peace and blessings on you pilgrims and mourners of the dear and eminent imam. It is precisely a year since the demise of the imam and our people, the world's Muslims, and the oppressed of the world are sad and stunned. [passage omitted]

The imam had special qualities. [passage omitted] The first special quality of the imam, and the first factor behind the imam's victory and success was that the imam, in his actions, his movement, in his teaching—everything was for the sake of God. [passage omitted]

The imam did whatever duty dictated. In the Salman Rushdie affair, it was obvious—from the point of view of political people, it was clear that it was an action which would make waves; that there would be opposition; that there would be difficulties; that there would be accusations and insults; but the imam, when he deemed it necessary, issued the edict of apostasy [hokm-e 'ertedad], and he said in his next announcement: Let it not come to pass that 10 years later, some people say that that he issued that divine command and wanted it implemented at that time; that he issued a fatwa [religious decree] and it was a mistake. Therefore, one of the special qualities and particular features, which was the greatest feature and the greatest factor behind the imam's victory, was precisely the imam's purity of faith. [passage omitted]

Another point, one of the imam's special qualities and features which was very effective in the victory of the revolution, was that the imam was decisive; the imam was steadfast; the imam was strong; the imam acted in accordance with his judgement; he would think; he acted with reflection; but once he had embarked on action, he would harbor no doubts. Once he had acted, he accepted all the consequences. Once he had embarked on action, if there were difficulties, if there were crushing pressures, if they placed the imam in a tight spot, rather then showing weakness, retreating, hesitating, the imam would become stronger and more steadfast. [passage omitted]

Another of the imam's special qualities and features—I will say just this one thing and quickly end my remarks—one of the special qualities of the imam was his love for the people; his link with the people and, after God, his reliance on the people. These things are very important for the advancement of a movement. [passage omitted] Until the end of his life the imam—from the beginning of his movement until the end of his life—the imam's reliance, after God, was on the people. He considered the people the greatest factor behind the victory, success, and continuation of his revolution.

Thus we see in the June affair [Islamic uprising in 1963 against the Shah led by Khomeyni]—when the imam's revolution had achieved victory and when he was speaking on the anniversary of 5 June, he laid stress on the people once again. Which people? The bare-footed masses; the oppressed masses; the masses who want neither fame nor medals; the masses who have no expectations; the masses whose work is for God and based on religious duty. Thus, the imam relied on them. When the liberals in the Bani-sadr and Hezbollah affair said that the country had reached an impasse, the imam said: You have reached an impasse. [crowd chants in support] He said: You have reached an impasse. These old women and old men [the masses] know every impasse; they solve all problems; they are the supporters of the Islamic Republic. [passage omitted]

The imam said: Go and see who created the 5 June; which people played a role in the 5 June; which strata of the people were present. Then he said—this is his exact phrase—he said: It was not those high-up people; it was people down below; that is, the resistant, selfless, and faithful farmers of Varamin who came from Varamin to Baqerabad; and they were gunned down [by the Shah's forces] and about 300 of them were martyred; those very farmers, 5,000 of whom moved toward Tehran wearing shrouds. [passage omitted]

Basically, the Islamic revolution, from the start, was supported by this oppressed, hard-working nation and the million-strong masses. Thus, the imam knew their worth; he loved them; and his link with them was indissoluble until the end. [passage omitted]

We are all still benefitting from the spiritual influence of the imam. All that we have is from those remarks, those words, those written works, and the spiritual influence which the imam left among us in his memory. And, undoubtedly, all of us have a value for the nation and the people as long as we keep to the same path as the imam's line, the imam's path, and the imam's spirituality. [crowd chants in support]

God be praised, that way of thinking, that far-sightedness and that wisdom which the imam brought to rule in society continues; that spirituality continues and more than anyone the eminent leader, the imam's son, and the imam's worthy pupil, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i pays the greatest attention to that way of thinking and wisdom, and to the continuation of the imam's line, and he insists on that. Our night and day, our thoughts and deeds must all be devoted to the resolution of the people's problems. We hope that the government can carry out another revolutionary movement for the implementation of programs. And we sincerely thank the forces which strive for the resolution of people's problems; people who are our blessing.

I had written down other special qualities of the imam; but I do not have time to go into them. I will therefore end my remarks here and I will leave my unworthy remarks to other occasions. What is important, and what I have repeatedly said in my remarks these days, is that we should be able to follow the path of the imam and that we should be able to carry out the imam's ideas and thoughts and that we should not lose the path in the imam's absence. The imam is an idea and a thought for always; alive for all future generations who must benefit from the sacred existence, thought, and idea of the imam. [passage omitted]

Ayatollah Sane'i Speaks at Mourning Ceremonies

LD0506210490 Tehran IRNA in English 1420 GMT 5 Jun 90

[Text] Tehran, June 5, IRNA—Mourning masses Tuesday commemorated the 27th anniversary of the Khordad 15 (June 5) uprising and the first anniversary of the imam's demise at the imam's shrine in Tehran's Behesht-e Zahra cemetery.

On June 5th, 1963 the late Imam Khomeyni initiated the campaign against the despotic regime of the shah.

Although the ceremony was scheduled for the morning, people continued to arrive in the shrine till the afternoon in spite of the hot weather.

Foreign guests here for the late imam's anniversary were also present in the shrine.

Addressing the ceremony Ayatollah Yusef Sane'i, a Qom theologian and a member of the Council of Expediency [Expediency Discernment Council], referred to the grand status of the late imam and his endeavors and sufferings while in exile and after the victory of the 1979 Islamic revolution.

Referring to imam's campaign against the despotic regime of the toppled shah, he expressed hope that

Islamic movements in Palestine, Lebanon, Egypt and Jordan will reach their objectives.

Ayatollah Sane'i praised leader of the islamic revolution Ayatollah Khamene'i as a true disciple of the late imam.

Joint Staff Command Reiterates Allegiance to Imam

LD0306155190 Tehran IRNA in English 1310 GMT 3 Jun 90

[Text] Tehran, June 3, IRNA—The joint staff command of the Armed Forces in a statement today reiterated its allegience to the legacy of the late leader of the Islamic revolution, Imam Khomeyni.

"The Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic will safeguard the precious legacy of the Imam which is the Islamic Republic system, until the last man and the last breath, and will continue on his path," said the statement on the occasion of the first anniversary of the passing away of the great leader.

Khamene'i Stresses Need for Muslim Unity

LD0606130490 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 6 Jun 90

[Excerpt] In a meeting this morning with a large number of the ummah of the world of Islam, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamane'i, the great leader of the Islamic revolution and guardian of the cause [vali-ye amr] of the Muslims, termed the sincerity of the Muslims' great and immortal [hamishedh javid] imam as the focal and outstanding point of his life and ways. In his remarks, he also said that the greatness and ever-increasing power of Islam was in constant need of unity among all Muslims.

At this meeting, in which the foreign Muslims sincerely and emotionally expressed their good feelings for the exalted leader, His Eminence Khamane'i thanked the Muslim brothers and sisters who had come to Islamic Iran from all over the world to take part in the anniversary of the demise of the Leader of the oppressed and deprived. Referring to the outstanding dimensions of the imam's life, he said that it was the sincerety of that great imam which captured the hearts of all the members of the Islamic ummah throughout the world, members of the Islamic ummah who, before the greatness of the imam and his path and message demonstrated obedience, submisison, and unity of purpose. It is only through sincerity in word and deed that one can tread the path of the imam.

The leader of the Islamic revolution said that the words of the imam frightened the enemies of the revolution and heartened its friends. He added: On the basis of Islam's view of world affairs, unwaivering belief in Muslim unity is necessary for the solution of the Muslims' problems and for bringing greatness to Islam. That was the objective which the imam always strove to achieve.

He warned against the ever-increasing efforts by the United States and its allies to sow the seeds of discord among Muslims, saying: Today the hired writers, those who are fed by petrodollars and money from the bags of reactionaries in league with the United States, are trying to create discord among various Muslims.

The United States, which considers the attraction of Islamic revolution as a danger to itself, has mobilized all its resources in order to deliver blows to the unity of Muslims, and for the purpose of bringing about tension and dispute among Islamic sects. The guardian of the cause of the Muslims considered the unity among faithful and God-worshipping forces as something that is incumbent upon Muslims. While waging a strong attack on the rulers of Al Sa'ud, he graciously said: One of the most important objectives of the hajj is to bring Muslims closer to one another, and the introduction of the enemy to the great mass of Muslims. However, the tyrant and corrupt leaders of Saudi Arabia, before the eyes of the Muslims and within the perimeter of the sacred shrine of God, started their ruthless massacre of the oppressed men and women, the families of martyrs and selfless devotees. They were not even ashamed about expressing their opposition to Muslims shunning the United States and Israel. Right now, it has been three years since they blocked the way to God and His sacred house.

His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i described the sensitivity of global arrogance toward the awakened Muslims of the world, and arrogance's interference in the hajj ceremonies. He added: The United States and its instruments within the organs of domination are frightened of Muslims becoming familiar with one another because Islamic unity, and unity of vision and opinion among Muslims are dangerous for arrogance.

The guardian of the cause of the Muslims, concluding his remarks, urged the world's Muslims to piety in action and to emphasis on Islamic unity as great objectives. He added: Our great imam sowed the seeds for unity, and the young tree of Islam is constantly growing. This momentum will be continued and arrogance is incapable of delivering blows to this great momentum, which is traversing a bright path. [passage omitted]

*Economy Said To Force Dealings With West

90AS0079D London KEYHAN in Persian 10 May 90 p 12

[Text] The chaotic economic situation in the Islamic Republic and the problems the country faces as a result of the eight-year war with Iraq have forced Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the president of the Islamic Republic, to prepare the grounds for the return of Iranian assets from the United States and the taking out of loans from international financial agencies, especially the International Monetary Fund, by getting closer to the West and ordering the release of a few hostages.

The injection of nearly $12 billion into the impotent and bankrupt economy of the Islamic Republic might limit the destructive effects of the lack of financial ability to solve the problems, even if only temporarily.

Harvey Morris, the Middle East analyst of INDEPENDENT, published in London, wrote in an article entitled "Immediate Cash Is the Main Issue" some time ago, simultaneous with the release of one of the U.S. hostages:

"U.S. President Bush, as opposed to the Islamic Republic, is not faced with any sort of pressure. On the contrary, he enjoys an advantageous position in facing Tehran. On the other hand, the Islamic Republic, particularly 'Ali Akbar Rafsanjani, the president of the Islamic Republic, is in such a state that it is prepared to strike a deal with Washington without any questions."

The above-mentioned writer adds in his article: "For the past 11 months, 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani has been the center of power in Iran. When he was elected president and took over the duty of restoring economic tranquillity to the war-stricken and bankrupt country, the people gave him only one year to accomplish this important task. However, the short-term prospects for the economic conditions of Iran are very dire, although its long-term prospects appear a little brighter. The basis of the calculations concerning the five-year developmental plan is foreign currency revenues from the sale of crude oil to other countries at $25 a barrel. Such an optimistic calculation has not thus far become a reality. The price of a barrel of crude oil in the past weeks has declined by about 25 percent. Iranian crude oil is at the present sold for about $15 a barrel."

In another part of his article, Harvey Morris writes: "Even if the price of Iranian crude oil should increase in the long term (about which many conservative energy experts are not optimistic), the operators of the Islamic Republic have a dire need for cash to return the public's trust. The wave of unrest which has been observed recently in various parts of Iran indicates the increasing discontent of the people in regard to the economic actions of the leaders of the Islamic Republic."

Vahe Petrosian, the economic analyst of the GUARDIAN (London), also writes in an article entitled "The Economic Crisis Will Force Iran To Change Its Policies": "The discontent of the Iranian public as the result of the slow actions to improve the economy has been quite visible for some time. Even though the regime claims that in some industrial activities it has taken some steps, still these limited and insignificant steps have not returned the public trust and have not stopped the people from engaging in activities such as land speculation and black-market foreign currency transactions."

Another part of the newspaper article states: "Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the president of the Islamic Republic, needs to receive economic and financial aid from the West. His needs include forcing the United States to return the Iranian assets. At the same time, he is trying to eliminate the potential crisis that exists in Iran and direct his activities to the improvement of the economic situation."

Andrew Cornelius, the trade analyst of the GUARDIAN, writes about the trade relations between London and Tehran: "Despite the continued crisis in political relations between England and the Islamic Republic and the issue of Salman Rushdie, in the past year, London increased the value of its trade with Tehran over that of 1988."

Statistics published by the Ministry of Industries and Commerce indicate that in 1989, England exported goods worth an estimated 257 million pounds sterling to the Islamic Republic. This ministry claimed the value of British exports to Iran in 1988 to be 248 million pounds sterling.

An analysis of the trade statistics of England and other countries indicates that in the past year that country purchased goods and materials—mainly crude oil—at a value of 251 million pounds sterling from the Islamic Republic. A comparison of this figure with the total British imports from Iran in 1988 shows an increase of nearly 100 percent. The British Ministry of Trade announced the total value of the country's imports from the Islamic Republic in 1988 to be about 140 million pounds sterling.

*Commentary Defends Mohajerani Article

90AS0079A Tehran KEYHAN in Persian
1 May 90 p 18

[Article by Jamileh Kadivar]

[Text] "At the dawn of Islam, the Prophet sent envoys to various places in order to establish relations. We cannot sit by and say: What do we have to do with other governments? This goes against reason and religion."

Imam Khomeyni (may God have mercy on him)

In the world of rapid changes, when every day it is pregnant with new events, in a world which is characterized according to political experts by communications and strong computerized systems, and in an era when every day, with countries becoming closer to one another, the world is becoming more clearly a global village, this week Islamic Iran as well witnessed events worthy of contemplation, events which began with the publication of one article in an evening newspaper and faced strong and blaring reactions.

In connection with the recent events, the following issues are worthy of note.

1. The principle of "neither East nor West, Islamic Republic" is an unchanging principle in the foreign policy of the Islamic Republic. Perhaps explaining this principle, which has been done frequently by the officials of the Islamic Republic and unfortunately has not been noted by a group of people, will clarify many events. In connection with the above-mentioned thesis, the following questions can be examined: "Does the principle of neither East nor West mean declaring war on the East and the West?" "Does the principle of neither East nor

West mean not having relations and embassies in other countries of the world?" "Does the thesis of neither East nor West mean the negation of any kind of negotiation...?" In response to all these questions, we must answer, "No."

In our ears is the sound of the words of the imam, who said frequently, "As for the United States and the USSR, if they do not interfere in our internal affairs and have good relations with us, we shall establish relations with them" and "The government of the Islamic Republic has no opposition to any government or country. If the United States behaves humanely towards this government and maintains respect, this government will maintain mutual respect, as with other countries."

If the principle of neither East nor West contains the above meanings, improved relations with the Soviet Union (which had not stopped its overall support of Iraq during the Iran-Iraq war) during the imam's life, the letter of the imam to Gorbachev, his sending a special delegation to the Soviet Union, and finally the visit of the speaker of the Iranian Majles of the time to that country and the signing of a technical and economic cooperation agreement would not have been carried out until the year 2000. The following question must be answered truthfully: Did relations with the Soviet Union mean the negation of the strategic slogan of "neither East," or has this slogan meant and does it mean not accepting "Eastern domination?" Certainly the second answer is what the imam meant.

2. In the same vein, the question of "neither West" does not mean the negation of relations with the West, the negation of negotiations with the West and war against the West. Rather, this slogan means not accepting the domination of the West and Westerners.

3. "Negotiation" in international relations and common diplomacy is considered a means of bringing the views of two sides closer together, a tool that by itself has no "value load." Like a surgeon's knife, it either can be a tool in the hands of an experienced surgeon to save human life or it might fall into the hands of a criminal and be used to kill human beings. "Negotiation" can potentially be a tool for a revolution or a government to achieve its goals and ideals or a tool for abjectness and increased dependence.

4. The article, "Direct Negotiation" is in fact the discussion of a theory. Undoubtedly, like other theories, it could be evaluated to measure its strengths and weaknesses, and ultimately, by taking into consideration its positive and negative aspects, it would either be accepted or rejected.

The point to be contemplated is the behavior of those who have written in opposition to the article. The points common to all the issues brought up can be summarized as follows:

A. Most of the issues ascribed to the writer of the article were products of the imaginations and prejudgments of the writers of the above-mentioned articles rather than views expressed by the writer of the article, "Direct Negotiations."

B. With all the statements of the critics taken into consideration, it seems obvious that all of them agree to indirect negotiations and have somehow accepted them as necessary and are only hesitant about their being direct.

C. The critics, rather than criticizing the proposal and offering an appropriate proposal and opinion, have engaged in insulting language and personal attacks upon the writer of the article. This kind of reaction stems from a sort of "absolutism" on the part of the critics, who, in the terms of the grand martyr Shahcheraghi, have engaged in arguing "for the benefit of the public."

The distinguished writers of such criticism, rather than making use of their pens as a lamp to light the way, have used them as a club, which results in the suppression of human ideas and thoughts. All of us believe in a religion that recommends reasoning and advice.

5. Hoping that from all the events that have occurred we gain dignity, I ask God to grant us tolerance. We must also be able to accept opinions contrary to our own. We must accept that ideas and opinions can only be responded to with reasons and showing the way. "A pen that becomes a club might break a head, but it shall never harm the idea." As John Stuart Mill says in his "Essay on Freedom": "If silencing an opinion by force is proper, in that case, those very people who oppose it have been deprived of this golden opportunity to exchange 'falsehood' for 'truth.' But if an idea is wrong, those who stifle it are again suffering a loss, because if they had left the conflict of ideas free, in the confrontation between truth and falsehood, the face of truth would come alive and be seen more clearly."

1. SAHIFEH-YE NUR, Vol 4, p 28.

2. SAHIFEH-YE NUR, Vol 4, p 50.

Pakistan

Opposition Moves Against Bhutto Noted

BK0606162290 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 6 Jun 90

[Text] A meeting of the Pakistan People's Party [PPP] parliamentary party was held in Islamabad this evening under the chairmanship of the prime minister and cochairperson of the PPP, Ms. Benazir Bhutto. It discussed various issues relating to the budget for the year 1990-91.

The meeting was informed that the opposition has planned to boycott the budget on one issue or another.

The meeting was also informed that the opposition has launched a campaign under the patronage of official agency in Punjab in which some very provocative banners and posters are being displayed in Lahore and other

cities against the prime minister and her government. The meeting was of the view that campaign of opposition against the minister of state for finance is based on totally false allegations as stock exchange is nonprofitable organization which is run of the pattern of a [words indistinct].

The prime minister asked party MNA's [members of National Assembly] to face the campaign of the opposition with patience and not to be provocated by the opposition's propaganda and baseless allegations.

Khan Notes Sindh Violence, Rules Out Martial Law

BK0606114290 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 6 Jun 90 pp 1, 6

[By Tariq Butt]

[Text] Islamabad, June 5—President Ghulam Ishaq Khan declared on Tuesday [5 June] that martial law was not a solution to the Sindh problem, which needed to be tackled politically.

Asked whether there is any "intention" to impose "limited" martial law and establish military courts, he said: "These measures are not a solution to any political issue".

The President was informally answering newsmen's questions at the residence of the late Mohsin Siddiqui which he visited to express his condolence with the deceased's son.

"Before seeking a political solution to the problem, a peaceful atmosphere has to be created," he said when asked whether administrative steps would help defuse the situation.

Answering a question, President Ishaq disagreed with an impression created by the PPP [Pakistan People's Party] leaders that Muhajirs are terrorists. "There are terrorists everywhere and in every (political) party. You have to handle them (sternly) without any discrimination, [no closing quotation marks as published] he said.

To another question whether the reported shedding of tears by Ms Bhutto and some other participants of the meeting of PPP MPs [members of Parliament] and other leaders over Sindh violence has created demoralisation among the people, the President said, 'Put this question to those who shed tears.' President Ishaq emphasised that one had to work honestly and with an even-handed attitude to tackle sensitive national issues.

He said an all parties conference, (APC), which he proposed some months ago, could still provide a "sufficient ground" for finding a solution to the Sindh problem.

The President avoided comment on whether or not he was satisfied with the steps, so far, taken regarding the Sindh problem. "Don't ask me this question. Everybody has his own opinion."

"We are," he said, "trying to take different measures to create peace, amity and udnerstanding in the province."

President Ishaq told a questioner that he issued a statement in Karachi a couple of days before the police raid in Hyderabad in which he said: "You will soon hear a good news" in the light of a briefing given by the Sindh Chief Minister in which he has explained a plan to curb violence and restore peace in the province.

To yet another question that the government had failed in Hyderabad, the President referred to his recent statement about the particular incident. It was really an eye-opener.

"It is the duty of the nation to see whether those in whom it reposed confidence have come up to its expectations," the President said when asked whether the political parties have failed to resolve political issues.

"What is the nature of proposals which India has forwarded," was another question. The President said these were meant for confidence-building. "But is normalisation possible without resolving the Kashmir issue," was yet another question to which he replied: "In the ultimate analysis, Kashmir canndot be excluded for normalisation. The negotiations can, however, be started."

Economic Survey for Financial Year Released

BK0406114490 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 4 Jun 90

[Text] The annual economic survey speaks of the outgoing financial year as the year of growth with economic viability and stability. The survey released in Islamabad today says the policies adopted by the government in the previous year were sustained through further reduction in fiscal deficit, tight monetary control, and flexible exchange rates. The measures have brought about not only significant reduction in the rate of inflation but also in the current account deficit of the balance of payment.

The growth of the economy during the year shows an improvement with the GDP [Gross Domestic Product] growth rate of 5.2 percent in real term as compared to 4.8 percent last year. The survey says federal revenues have improved, while nondevelopmental expenditure is held in check. The rate of inflation, which witnessed an upsurge of 10.4 percent during the last financial year, slowed down during the current fiscal year. The increase in per capita income is about two percent in real term. Exports grew by 6.1 percent.